



In this April 14, 2017, file photo, protesters hold up signs outside a courthouse in San Francisco.

Associated Press  
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# Senators: Big task to quash foreign election meddling online

By **DEB RIECHMANN** and **MARY CLARE JALONICK**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Republican senators said Wednesday that the government faces a momentous task in preventing foreigners from using social media to interfere in U.S. elections, citing concerns about the First Amendment and the sprawling nature of the internet.

Experts testifying before the Senate Intelligence Committee said Russia and other foreign actors are using high-tech means to polarize Americans not only on elections, but also on highly charged issues like race and immigration. The hearing came one day after Facebook said it had uncovered new sophisticated efforts, possibly linked to



Senate Intelligence Committee ranking member Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., speaks to witnesses during a committee hearing on foreign influence operations and their use of social media on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018.

Associated Press

Russia, to manipulate U.S. politics ahead of the mid-term elections.

"We have bad actors putting out bad information. The difficulty is how do you

segregate those people who are doing this from Americans who have the right to do this?" asked Sen. James Risch, R-Idaho. "This is just an enormous, if not

an impossible, thing."

While lawmakers have voiced outrage at the interference, they haven't yet figured out what the government can do to combat it. Facebook has resisted regulation over the years, and the Republican-led Congress has so far been reluctant to crack down on social media companies, even after it was first revealed last year that a Russian internet agency had manipulated American social media during and after the 2016 election to try to further divide Americans on social issues. A bill introduced by Democrats to regulate the way election ads are shown on social media has not moved in the Senate.

The committee's Republican chairman, Richard Burr of North Carolina, said those interfering through social media are trying to "weaken our country from within" and government must find a way to respond while maintaining the rights of internet users.

"How do you keep the good while getting rid of the bad?" Burr asked. "That is the fundamental question in front of us, and it is a complex problem that intertwines First Amendment freedoms, corporate responsibility, government regulation and the right of innovators to prosper from their work."

Burr said Moscow isn't interfering because it has political leanings to the right or left or because it cares about U.S. elections, but "rather because a weak America is good for Russia." Sen. Mark Warner, the ranking Democrat on the committee, said that even after 18 months of study, the U.S. is only scratching the surface of Russia's information warfare campaign, which has revealed the "dark underbelly" of social media.

Warner published a list of possible ideas for regulation this week, from giving consumers more control over their data to making companies liable for fake content that they don't take down. But he has not settled on a plan. At the

hearing, Warner wondered aloud about whether there could be some kind of "time out" during rapidly trending social media stories to determine if they are phony or real.

John Kelly, a social scientist and founder of Graphika, a marketing and analytics firm, told the committee that after the 2016 election, the Internet Research Agency, a Russia-based troll farm that has sowed discord in the U.S. political system, "stepped on the gas," increasing its use of fake accounts to drive dissension in American society.

He said automated accounts at the far left and far right of the American political spectrum generate as many as 25 to 30 times the number of messages that genuine political accounts put out on an average day. This results in extremists' messages "screaming while the majority whispers."

Laura Rosenberger, who directs the Alliance for Securing Democracy at The German Marshall Fund of the United States, said that tech companies need to share information and detail nefarious activities they are seeing and curtail them. She praised Facebook's announcement but said Facebook and Twitter represent only a segment of the activity.

"The Russian government and its proxies have infiltrated and utilized nearly every social media and online information platform, including Instagram, Reddit, YouTube, Tumblr, 4chan, 9GAG and Pinterest — flooding the information zone to target Americans," Rosenberger said.

Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, said at the hearing that he shudders when he hears the words "regulate the internet" — an action he wants Congress to avoid.

"There has to be some sort of national policy that's very clearly articulated, that's public, and that notifies our adversaries if you do X, Y will happen," King said in an interview afterward with The Associated Press. □

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# Court strikes down Trump push to cut 'sanctuary city' funds

By SUDHIN THANAWALA

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — A divided U.S. appeals court on Wednesday struck down a key part of President Donald Trump's contentious effort to crack down on cities and states that limit cooperation with immigration officials, saying an executive order threatening to cut funding for "sanctuary cities" was unconstitutional. In a 2-1 decision, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with a lower court that the order exceeded the president's authority. Congress alone controls spending under the U.S. Constitution, and presidents do not have the power to withhold funding it approves to pursue their policy goals, the court majority said.

"By its plain terms, the executive order directs the agencies of the executive branch to withhold funds appropriated by Congress in order to further the administration's policy objective of punishing cities and counties that adopt so-called 'sanctuary' policies," wrote Chief Judge Sidney Thomas, joined by Judge Ronald Gould.

The court, however, also said the lower-court judge went too far when he blocked enforcement of Trump's order nationwide after a lawsuit from two California counties — San Francisco and Santa Clara. Thomas said there wasn't enough evidence to support it, limited the injunction to California and sent the case back to the lower court for more arguments on whether a wider ban was warranted.

Devin O'Malley, a spokesman for the U.S. Justice Department, called the ruling a victory for "criminal aliens in California, who can continue to commit crimes knowing that the state's leadership will protect them from federal immigration officers whose job it is to hold them accountable and remove them from the country."

"The Justice Department remains committed to the rule of law, to protecting public safety, and to keep-



In this June 26, 2017, file photo, Lydia Balderas, left, and Merced Leyua, right, join others as they protest against a new sanctuary cities bill outside the federal courthouse in San Antonio.

Associated Press

ing criminal aliens off the streets," he said.

The decision overall is a big win for opponents of the executive order, but Trump could try to enforce it against jurisdictions outside the nine Western states covered by the 9th Circuit, said David Levine, an expert on federal court procedure at the University of California, Hastings, College of Law.

"If they wanted to go after Chicago, if they wanted to go after Denver or Philadelphia, they would not be bound by an injunction," he said. "Those places would have to bring their own lawsuits and whatever happens, happens in those cases."

Trump signed the executive order in January 2017 — part of a push by his administration to go after cities and states that don't work with U.S. immigration authorities.

The government also has moved to withhold a particular law enforcement grant from sanctuary jurisdictions and sued California over three laws that extend protections to people in the country illegally.

The Trump administration says sanctuary cities and states allow dangerous criminals back on the street. San Francisco and other sanctuary cities say turning local police into immigration officers erodes the trust needed to get people to report crime.

The executive order directed the attorney general and secretary of Homeland Security to ensure that jurisdictions refusing to comply with a particular immigration law generally are not eligible to receive U.S. grants.

U.S. District Judge William Orrick in San Francisco ruled in November that the order threatened all federal funding and that

the president lacked the authority to attach new conditions to spending approved by Congress.

The executive order potentially jeopardized hundreds of millions of dollars in funding to the San Francisco and Santa Clara counties, Orrick said, citing comments by Trump and U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions as evidence of the order's scope.

The Trump administration said the order applied to a relatively small pot of money that already required compliance with the immigration law.

"When a president overreaches and tries to assert authority he doesn't have under the Constitution, there needs to be a check on that power grab," San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera said in a statement Wednesday. "The courts did that today, which is exactly what the framers of the Constitution had in mind."

Santa Clara County Counsel James R. Williams said the decision was a victory for a key provision of the U.S. Constitution.

In a colorful dissenting opinion, 9th Circuit Judge Ferdinand Fernandez said the executive order clearly says any action by the attorney general or Homeland Security secretary was to be taken in accordance with the law. He said Orrick had pushed that language aside and called the counties' fears about the order an "imagined beast." □

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# Trump urges end to probe 'right now,' setting off new storm

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Donald Trump bluntly declared on Wednesday his attorney general should terminate "right now" the federal probe into the campaign that took him to the White House, a newly fervent attack on the special counsel investigation that could imperil his presidency. Trump also assailed the trial, just underway, of his former campaign chairman by the special counsel's team.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders scrambled to explain that Trump's tweet was "not an order" and the president was not directing his attorney general to do anything.

"It's the president's opinion," she said.

But Trump's early morning tweetstorm again raised the specter that he could try to more directly bring special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia-Trump election-collusion probe to a premature end. And it revived the idea that the president's tweets themselves might be used as evidence that he is attempting to obstruct justice.

Meanwhile, Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani said negotiations are continuing to have Trump sit down for questions from Mueller, though the lawyer said "I'm not going to give you a lot of hope that it's going to happen." He said both sides had exchanged proposals for conditions for such an interview, "and yesterday we got a letter back from them and now we're in the process of responding."

Trump has raged privately in recent days that both the forces of government and the media are try-



President Donald Trump smiles during a meeting with inner city pastors in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018.

Associated Press

ing to undermine him. That includes trumped-up charges against his former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, and distorting the outcome of the Helsinki summit to make it appear he was beholden to Russia, according to two Republicans close to the White House not authorized to speak about private conversations.

Trump was closely monitoring news coverage of the Manafort proceedings, which provoked the spate of incendiary tweets, according to the two Republicans and two White House officials.

"The president's not obstructing, he's fighting back," said Sanders, dismissing the idea Trump's tweets could be tantamount to obstruction of justice.

The most inflammatory of Trump's tweets said, "This is a terrible situation and Attorney General Jeff Sessions should stop this Rigged Witch Hunt right now, before it continues to stain our country any further. Bob

Mueller is totally conflicted, and his 17 Angry Democrats that are doing his dirty work are a disgrace to USA!"

The president's anger came the day after the start of the trial of Manafort, who is facing federal charges of bank fraud and tax evasion. And while Mueller did not bring any election-related charges against Manafort, the specter of the Russian investigation is hanging over the Alexandria, Virginia, courthouse. And Trump's White House.

"Paul Manafort worked for Ronald Reagan, Bob Dole and many other highly prominent and respected political leaders," Trump tweeted. "He worked for me for a very short time. Why didn't government tell me that he was under investigation. These old charges have nothing to do with Collusion - a Hoax!" Later the president invoked one of the nation's most notorious criminals, 1920s gangster Al Capone, and posed the question "who was treated worse" while

airing his grievance about Manafort being held in solitary confinement ahead of a conviction. Manafort is in detention after having his bail revoked because of allegations that he was attempting to tamper with witnesses in his case. Federal prosecutors revealed last month that he was afforded unusual privileges while in detention.

Trump has spent more than a year trying to distance himself from his one-time top political aide, and to minimize the role Manafort played in his campaign. Trump's protestations aside, Manafort worked on the campaign during a critical six-month period in 2016, during which he led the effort to ensure Trump won the Republican nomination. He oversaw the early days of the general election effort.

Sanders said Trump wants Mueller's investigation concluded swiftly without intervention, though Trump has publicly mused as recently as May about interfering in

the Department of Justice's oversight of the probe. "At some point I will have no choice but to use the powers granted to the Presidency and get involved!" he tweeted then.

Trump has repeatedly belittled the probe as "a hoax," as those close to him suggest he feels that any talk of Russian interference tarnishes his electoral victory and delegitimizes his presidency.

One of the president's confidants deemed Trump in "a dark place," seething about the longlasting probe and the media's depiction of his White House under siege. Though long antagonistic toward the press, Trump's anger toward the media has only grown over the past month, as he has berated coverage of his Singapore and Helsinki summits, the possible prosecutorial cooperation of his former legal "fixer" Michael Cohen and the Mueller probe.

After complaining about the tough questions he received from American reporters in Finland, Trump has largely steered clear of the mainstream media, instead opting for safer spaces like an interview with ally Rush Limbaugh this week. From the White House briefing room podium on Wednesday, Sanders declined to denounce the harassment of a CNN reporter during a Trump rally in Florida on Tuesday.

The president's social media outburst renewed discussion of the significance of his tweets.

Rudy Giuliani, the president's lawyer, stressed that Trump was just issuing an opinion, though he also said the White House believes "the investigation should be brought to a close." □





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# Student charged in elaborate digital money theft scheme

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER and  
ALANNA DURKIN RICHER

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — A Massachusetts college student who was named his high school's valedictorian for his savvy tech skills hacked into unsuspecting investors' personal cellphones, email and social media accounts to steal at least \$2 million in digital currency like Bitcoin, according to documents provided by California prosecutors Wednesday. Joel Ortiz was taken into custody July 12 at Los Angeles International Airport ahead of a flight to Boston, according to prosecutors. The 20-year-old faces more than two dozen charges including grand theft, iden-

tity theft and computer hacking, court documents show. He's held on \$1 million bail.

The Santa Clara County, California, public defender's office, which is representing Ortiz, declined comment.

A number listed for his home in Boston was disconnected.

The elaborate scheme involved taking over victims' phones, allowing him to reset passwords and access online accounts containing electronic assets in the form of Bitcoin, Coinbase, Bittrex and Binance, the criminal complaint said.

In one case Ortiz allegedly walked into an AT&T store

and impersonated a victim in order to get a new SIM card, which gave him control of the victim's phone. He obtained access to the victim's "financial and personal identifying information, tax returns, private passwords" and siphoned \$10,000 from a cryptocurrency account, according to police report.

In several instances Ortiz allegedly impersonated victims over text messages and convinced friends and family members to "loan" him digital funds, court documents said.

At one point Ortiz allegedly stole \$10,000 from a California resident, and then tried to get more, calling the



In this May 31, 2016 photo, Joel Ortiz, center, poses for a photo with Mayor Marty Walsh, left, and public schools Superintendent Tommy Chang, right, during a luncheon for public schools valedictorians in Boston.

victim's wife and sending a text to the victim's daughter that said "TELL YOUR DAD TO GIVE US BITCOIN," the documents said.

Court documents identify more than 20 victims who live in California, and prosecutors say they know of additional victims outside

of the state.

Ortiz enrolled at the University of Massachusetts Boston and studies information technology, said school spokesman DeWayne Lehman.

Boston Public Schools spokesman Daniel O'Brien declined to comment. □

# Dad recalls finding girl with fingers severed by escalator

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST

**SANDY, Utah (AP)** — A 4-year-old Utah girl whose fingers were severed in the steps of a grocery store escalator last year is learning to color pictures again, but she could face more surgeries as her small hands grow, her father said Wednesday.

For Ramon Moreno, it's hard to forget the terrifying day he held his daughter Adalene in one arm and two of her fingers in a bucket in the other.

"It's a sick feeling. Scary," he said in an interview.

The family filed a lawsuit last week claiming Adalene lost her fingers because the Salt Lake City store failed to

keep the escalator properly maintained. It says several "comb teeth" of the escalator's steps were missing, creating a hole where the girl could stick her fingers inside.

"I don't want nobody to feel what I felt, or kid to go through what my daughter went through," Moreno said. The lawsuit filed against the supermarket and the escalator manufacturer claims state inspectors had warned the store about the broken pieces two years before, and safety switches did not stop the escalator from functioning after the girl's fingers got caught. The lawsuit seeks unspecified

monetary damages.

The store, Kroger-owned Smith's Marketplace, declined to comment Wednesday, citing the ongoing litigation. The escalator's manufacturer, Schindler Elevator Corp., has denied wrongdoing.

Moreno was on his way to his construction job when he got the call from the girl's mother, Silvia Zamora, his former partner, on Sept. 20, 2017. She had been buying when she heard the girl scream.

She rushed from the second-floor self-check register to the nearby escalator and found then-3-year-old Adalene at the bottom, covered in blood, her mid-

dle and ring fingers severed midway down. Adalene is too young to say exactly how it happened, so lawyers are also trying to obtain store surveillance video.

Employees had to retrieve the fingers from escalator components under the floor, and Moreno rushed the girl to an ambulance. Surgeons tried to re-attach the fingers, but they were too small and mangled, Moreno said.

"She from went being happy, singing, dancing, all the time every day, to just kind lying there with a blank look on her face," Moreno said. Today, Adalene is a bubbly child with long dark hair



Adalene Moreno waves during an interview Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018, in Sandy, Utah.

Associated Press

who loves her Barbie dolls, building forts out of blankets and playing with her six older brothers and sisters. □

# Pence-led service marks arrival of presumed Korean War dead

By **AUDREY McAVOY and KIM YONG-HO**

**HONOLULU (AP)** — Decades after the end of the Korean War in 1953, the remains of dozens of presumed U.S. war dead were on their way Wednesday to Hawaii for analysis and identification. The U.S. military believes the bones are those of U.S. servicemen and potentially servicemen from other United Nations member countries who fought alongside the U.S. on behalf of South Korea during the war.

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence and the commander of U.S. forces in Asia, Adm. Phil Davidson, were expected to speak at a ceremony marking the arrival of the remains on U.S. soil and the beginning of a long process to identify the bones. They met ahead of the formal ceremony.

North Korea handed over the remains last week. A U.S. military plane made a rare trip into North Korea to retrieve the 55 cases.

About 7,700 U.S. soldiers are listed as missing from the 1950-53 Korean War and about 5,300 of the remains are believed to still be in North Korea.

Hanwell Kaakimaka's uncle, John Kaakimaka, is among those who never came home.

"We've been watching the news, and we've been hopeful that my uncle is among the remains," he said, adding that it could bring his family some closure.

His uncle, who was from Honolulu, was a corporal in the 31st Infantry Regiment of the Army's 7th Infantry Division. He went missing on or about Dec. 2, 1950.

Hanwell Kaakimaka said the story he heard from his dad was that his uncle was injured and was being brought back from the front when Chinese troops overran the area and attacked the convoy.

If John Kaakimaka's remains are ever identified, his family wants him to be buried in a cemetery at the base of Diamond Head crater in Honolulu because that's where his parents

and brothers were laid to rest, Hanwell Kaakimaka said.

The Kaakimaka family pro-

ment made to one another before going into battle, and passed on from one generation of warriors to

The repatriation is a breakthrough in a long-stalled U.S. effort to obtain war remains from North Korea.

Trump thanked Kim for the return.

During the summit, Kim also agreed to "work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" in return for Trump's promise of security guarantees. Trump later suspended annual military drills with South Korea which North Korea had long called an invasion rehearsal.

But Trump now faces criticism at home and elsewhere that North Korea hasn't taken any serious steps toward disarmament and may be trying to buy time to weaken international sanctions against it.

North Korea halted nuclear and missile tests, shut down its nuclear testing site and began dismantling facilities at its rocket launch site. But many experts say those are neither irrevocable nor serious steps that could show the country is sincere about denuclearization.

North Korea may want to use the remains' return to keep diplomacy with the United States alive and win a reciprocal U.S. concession. Experts say the North likely wants a declaration of the end of the Korean War as part of U.S. security assurances.

An armistice that ended the Korean War has yet to be replaced with a peace treaty, leaving the peninsula in a technical state of war. North Korea has steadfastly argued its nuclear weapons are meant to neutralize alleged U.S. plans to attack it.

Efforts to recover remains in North Korea have been fraught with political and other obstacles since the war's end. Between 1990 and 1994, North Korea unilaterally handed over 208 caskets to the U.S., which turned out to contain remains of far more than 208 individuals, although forensics specialists thus far have established 181 identities.

A series of U.S.-North Korean recovery efforts, termed "joint field activities," between 1996 and 2005 yielded 229 caskets of remains, of which 153 have been identified, according to the Pentagon. □



**A U.S. soldier salutes during a repatriation ceremony for the remains of U.S. soldiers killed in the Korean War and collected in North Korea, at the Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018.**

Associated Press

vided DNA samples to the U.S. military's Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency over a decade ago, hoping officials would be able to make a match.

The agency identifies remains of servicemen killed in past conflicts. It typically uses bones, teeth and DNA to identify remains along with any items that may have been found with remains like uniforms, dog tags and wedding rings. But North Korea only provided one dog tag with the 55 boxes it handed over last week.

Before the remains were put on military planes bound for Hawaii, hundreds of U.S. and South Korean troops gathered at a hanger at the Osan base in South Korea for the repatriation ceremony, which included a silent tribute, a rifle salute and the playing of the U.S. and South Korean national anthems and dirges in front of the U.N. flag-covered metal cases containing the remains.

"For the warrior, this is a cherished duty, a commit-

ment made to one another before going into battle, and passed on from one generation of warriors to

the next," Vincent Brooks, chief of the U.S. military in South Korea, said in a speech. The remains were then moved in gray vans to an airfield where U.S. and South Korean soldiers loaded them one by one into two transport planes. Four U.S. fighter jets flew low in a tribute.

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said last week that the return of the 55 boxes was a positive step but not a guarantee that the bones are American.

A U.S. defense official said Tuesday that it probably will take months if not years to fully determine individual identities from the remains. The official, who discussed previously undisclosed aspects of the remains issue on condition of anonymity, also said North Korea provided a single military dog tag along with the remains. The official did not know details about the single dog tag, including the name on it or whether it was even that of an American military member.

There are 7,699 U.S. service members listed as unaccounted for from the 1950-53 Korean War, of which about 5,300 are believed to have died on North Korean soil. There remainder are those who died in South Korea but have not been recovered; those who died in air crashes at sea or on ships at sea, as well as a number who are believed to have been taken to China.

"The remains received from North Korea are being handled with the utmost care and respect by professional historians, forensic scientists, uniformed personnel and government officials," the U.S.-led U.N. Command said in a statement. It said it "never leaves troops behind, living or deceased, and will continue the mission of repatriation until every service member returns home."

The bones' return was part of an agreement reached during a June summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.



# U.S. bishops: Sex claims show U.S. cardinal's 'moral failure'

By **GILLIAN FLACCUS**

The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said Wednesday that sex abuse allegations against former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick dating back decades raise serious questions about how the claims could stay secret for so long as the retired archbishop from Washington, D.C., rose in prestige and power.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo said the allegations against his former colleague reveal a "grievous moral failure" and urged anyone who has experienced sexual abuse at the hands of the church to come forward. DiNardo reminded bishops in the United States to take those reports seriously and contact the police when required.

"Both the abuses themselves, and the fact that they have remained undisclosed for decades, have caused great harm to people's lives and represent grave moral failures of judgment on the part of church leaders," he said in a statement.

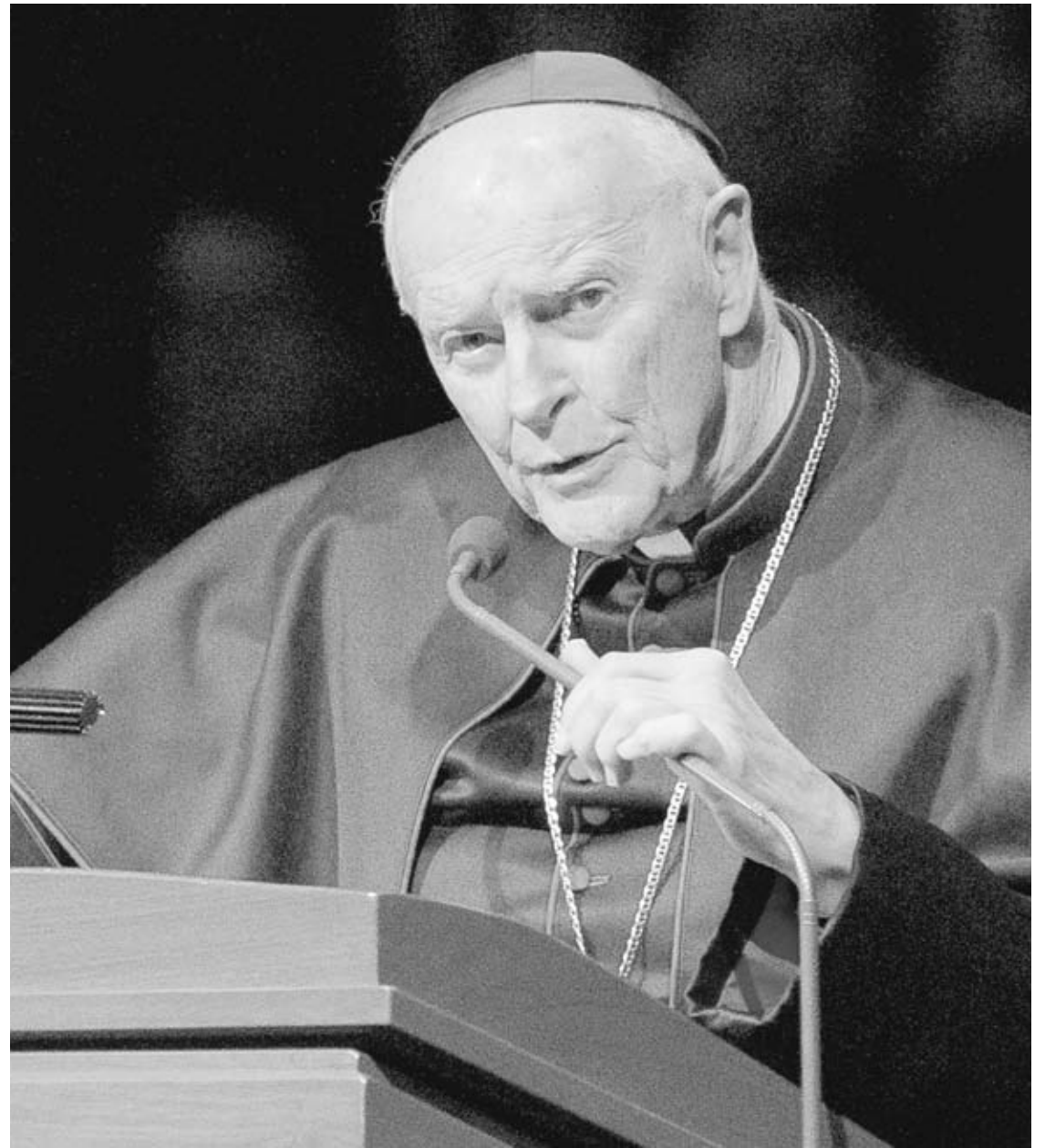
"One way or another, we are determined to find the truth in this matter," said DiNardo, who is also the archbishop of Galveston-Houston, in Texas.

The statement comes as church officials deal with abuse issues anew, more than a decade after the biggest mass clergy abuse settlements in U.S. history and the release of tens of thousands of documents that were long sealed in priest personnel files.

In an open letter Tuesday, a contributor to the conser-

vative Catholic magazine First Things urged Catholics to withhold donations to the U.S. church until an independent investigation determines which U.S. bishops knew about McCarrick's misdeeds — a "nuclear option" aimed at making church members' sense of betrayal heard. In Pennsylvania, a Roman Catholic diocese on Wednesday identified 71 priests and other members of the church who had been accused of child sex abuse and said it was holding accountable the bishops who led the church for the past 70 years, announcing that their names will be stripped from all church properties.

McCarrick, the Washington archbishop from 2000 to 2006, was previously one of the highest, most visible Catholic Church officials in the United States and was heavily involved in the church's yearslong response to allegations of priest abuse. Pope Francis ordered the 88-year-old removed from public ministry on June 20 after a church panel determined that allegations he sexually abused a teenager in New York more than 40 years ago were "credible and substantiated." The former altar boy alleged that McCarrick, then a priest, fondled him during preparations for Christmas Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in 1971 and 1972. Since then, another man identified only as James has come forward, saying that McCarrick first exposed himself to him when he was 11 and then engaged in a sexually abusive relationship with



In this March 4, 2015, file photo, Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick speaks during a memorial service in South Bend, Ind.

Associated Press

him for the next 20 years. McCarrick has denied the initial accusation but has not responded to the second one. At the time of McCarrick's June removal, the New Jersey archdioceses of Newark and Metuchen revealed that they had received three complaints from adults alleging misconduct and harassment by McCarrick and had settled two of them. Pope Francis then accepted McCarrick's resignation on July 28, effectively stripping him of his cardinal's title, and ordered him to live a lifetime of penance and prayer pending the outcome of a canonical trial. □

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# Leaked chats show alleged Russian spy seeking hacking tools

By **RAPHAEL SATTER**  
**MATTHEW BODNER**

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Six years ago, a Russian-speaking cybersecurity researcher received an unsolicited email from Kate S. Milton. Milton claimed to work for the Moscow-based anti-virus firm Kaspersky. In an exchange that began in halting English and quickly switched to Russian, Milton said she was impressed by the researcher's work on exploits — the digital lock picks used by hackers to break into vulnerable systems — and wanted to be copied in on any new ones that the researcher came across.

"You almost always have all the top-end exploits," Milton said, after complimenting the researcher about a post to her website, where she often dissected malicious software.

"So that our contact isn't one-sided, I'd offer you my help analyzing malicious viruses, and as I get new samples I'll share," Milton continued. "What do you think?"

The researcher — who works as a security engineer and runs the malware-sharing site on the side — always had a pretty good idea that Milton wasn't who she said she was. Last month, she got confirmation via an FBI indictment. The indictment, made public on July 13, lifted the lid on the Russian hacking operation that targeted the 2016 U.S. presidential election. It identified "Kate S. Milton" as an alias for military intelligence officer Ivan Yermakov, one of 12 Russian spies accused of breaking into the Democratic National Committee and publishing its emails in an attempt to influence the 2016 election.

The researcher, who gave her exchanges with Milton to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, said she wasn't pleased to learn she had been corresponding with an alleged Russian spy. But she wasn't particularly surprised either. "This area of research is a magnet for suspicious people," she said.



In this file photo taken on Saturday, July 14, 2018, a man walks past the building of the Russian military intelligence service in Moscow, Russia.

Associated Press

The researcher and Milton engaged in a handful of conversations between April 2011 and March 2012. But even their sparse exchanges, along with a few digital breadcrumbs left behind by Yermakov and his colleagues, offer insight into the men behind the keyboards at Russia's Main Intelligence Directorate, or GRU.

It isn't unusual for messages like Milton's to come in out of the blue, especially in the relatively small world of independent malware analysts.

"There was nothing particularly unusual in her approach," the researcher said. "I had very similar interactions with amateur and professional researchers from different countries." The pair corresponded for a while. Milton shared a piece of malicious code at one point and sent over a hacking-related YouTube video at another, but contact fizzled out after a few months.

Then, the following year, Milton got back in touch.

"It's been all work, work, work," Milton said by way of apology, before quickly getting to the point. She needed new lock picks.

"I know that you can help," she wrote. "I'm working on a new project and I really need contacts that

can provide information or have contacts with people who have new exploits. I am willing to pay for them." In particular, Milton said she wanted information on a recently disclosed vulnerability codenamed CVE-2012-0002 - a critical Microsoft flaw that could allow hackers to remotely compromise some Windows computers. Milton had heard that someone had already cobbled together a working exploit.

"I'd like to get it," she said. The researcher demurred. The trade in exploits — for use by spies, cops, surveillance companies or criminals — can be a seedy one. "I usually steer clear from any wannabe buyers and sellers," she told the AP. She politely declined - and never heard from Milton again.

Milton's Twitter account — whose profile photo features "Lost" star Evangeline Lilly — is long dormant. The last few messages carry urgent, awkwardly worded appeals for exploits or tips about vulnerabilities.

"Help me find detailed description CVE-2011-0978," one message reads, referring to a bug in PHP, a coding language often used for websites. "Need a work exploit," the message continues, ending with a smiley face.

It isn't clear whether Yermakov was working for the GRU when he first masqueraded as Kate S. Milton. Milton's Twitter silence — starting in 2011 — and the reference to a "new project" in 2012 might hint at a new job. In any case, Yermakov wasn't working for the anti-virus firm Kaspersky — not then and not ever, the company said in a statement.

"We don't know why he allegedly presented himself as an employee," the statement said.

Messages sent by the AP to Kate S. Milton's Gmail account were not returned. The exchanges between Milton (Yermakov) and the researcher could be read in different ways.

They might show that the GRU was trying to cultivate people in the information security community with an eye toward getting the latest exploits as soon as possible, said Cosimo Mortola, a threat intelligence analyst at the cybersecurity company FireEye.

It's also possible that Yermakov might have initially worked as an independent hacker, hustling for spy tools before being hired by Russian military intelligence — a theory that makes sense to defense and foreign policy analyst Pavel Felgenhauer.

"For cyber, you have to hire

boys that understand computers and everything the old spies at the GRU don't understand," Felgenhauer said. "You find a good hacker, you recruit him and give him some training and a rank — a lieutenant or something — and then he will do the same stuff."

The leak of Milton's conversations shows how the glare of publicity is revealing elements of the hackers' methods — and perhaps even hints about their private lives.

It's possible, for example, that Yermakov and many of his colleagues commute to work through the arched entrance to Komsomolsky 20-22, a military base in the heart of Moscow that serves as home to the alleged hackers' Unit 26165. Photos shot from inside show it's a well-kept facility, with a czarist-era facade, manicured lawns, flower beds and shady trees in a central courtyard.

The AP and others have tried to trace the men's digital lives, finding references to some of those indicted by the FBI in academic papers on computing and mathematics, on Russian cybersecurity conference attendee lists or — in the case of Cpt. Nikolay Kozachek, nicknamed "kazak" — written into the malicious code created by Fancy Bear, the nickname long applied to the hacking squad before their identities were allegedly revealed by the FBI.

One of Kozachek's other nicknames also appears on a website that allowed users to mine tokens for new weapons to use in the first-person shooter videogame "Counter Strike: Global Offensive" — providing a flavor of the hackers' extra-curricular interests.

The AP has also uncovered several social media profiles tied to another of Yermakov's indicted colleagues — Lt. Aleksey Lukashev, allegedly the man behind the successful phishing of the email account belonging to Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman, John Podesta. □





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## Thieves steal Swedish royal jewels, escape by speedboat

By JAN M. OLSEN  
BARRY HATTON

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

(AP) — Thieves carrying out a daring daytime robbery smashed a security case at a cathedral in Sweden and stole gold and jewel-encrusted crowns from the early 1600s before hopping on bicycles and escaping via a nearby lake, police said.

The two men pulled off the heist at Strangnas Cathedral at noon Tuesday and vanished aboard a speedboat or jet skis into the vast patchwork of lakes around the city, located 60 kilometers (37 miles) west of the Swedish capital of Stockholm, police said.

The stolen artifacts included a gold crown and an

orb dating to 1611 that were made for King Karl IX's funeral, as well as a jewel-encrusted crown dating to 1625 that was used in Queen Kristina's funeral. The items were on display at an exhibition, and visitors were inside the cathedral when they were taken.

"The alarm went off when the burglars smashed the security glass and stole the artifacts," Catharina Frojd, a spokeswoman for the 14th century cathedral, told The Associated Press.

Strangnas Cathedral said on its website that the stolen pieces were kept "in accordance with the prevailing safety regulations in locked and alarmed displays." It gave no further details.



This image made available on Wednesday Aug. 1, 2018 by the Swedish Police, shows a collection of Swedish Crown jewels.

Associated Press

Police sent out a helicopter and boat to hunt for the thieves but found nothing. Authorities said no one was hurt in the robbery but didn't provide further details.

Tom Rowell, a visitor who was eating lunch outside the Lutheran church, said he saw two men running from the cathedral toward a small nearby jetty where a motorboat was moored.

"The two men hurriedly jumped on board and it sped off," Rowell said, adding that they "appeared non-Nordic." He didn't elaborate.

However, police spokesman Stefan Dangardt said "witnesses' testimonies varied quite a bit" and it was also possible the thieves escaped on jet skis.

The men used two stolen black bicycles equipped with baskets and a child's seat to race to the lake, Dangardt added.

On Wednesday, divers were looking for clues in and along the shores of Lake Malaren, Sweden's third-largest freshwater lake. Police said the thieves could have fled further on jet skis. □

## Fines for sex harassment on streets approved in France

By SYLVIE CORBET

PARIS (AP) — French lawmakers gave final passage Wednesday to a bill that expands the criminal definition of child rape and outlaws sex harassment on the street, measures the government described as a signal of deep social change.

The legislation approved in the lower house of the French parliament classifies relations between an adult and a child under age 15 as rape resulting from an "abuse of vulnerability," if the victim lacked the ability to consent. It would be up to a judge to determine whether or not a child was capable of giving sexual consent.

The revision followed recent cases that provoked public outrage. In both cases, French courts ruled men who had sex with 11-year-old girls could not be prosecuted for rape because authorities could not prove there was coercion. The bill also extends the statute of limitations for sex crimes, allowing prosecution for 30 years instead of 20 after a purported victim turns 18 years old.

The new law also allows for fines of 90-750 euros (\$105-\$876) for gender-based harassment on streets and public transportation. It bans sexual or sexist comments and behavior that is degrading, humiliating, intimidating hostile or of-

fensive. Junior minister for gender equality Marlene Schiappa said she is convinced the measure will act as a "deterrent."

A video of a man striking a woman after she responded to obscene sounds he made as she passed by him in Paris went viral in France this week. The Paris prosecutor has opened an investigation, but the man seen in the CCTV video has not been arrested.

The bill also steps up sanctions for cyberstalking and outlaws taking pictures or videos under someone's clothes without consent. The practice, known as "upskirting," will be punishable by up to one year in prison and a fine of 15,000



In this Oct. 29, 2017 file photo, a woman holds a banner that reads: 'Rape Culture' during a demonstration in Lyon, central France.

Associated Press

euros (\$ 17,533.) President Emmanuel Macron's government pushed for the changes in the leg-

islation in the wake of the #MeToo movement and said they would take effect in September. □



# Deadly riots rock Zimbabwe's capital as vote results delayed

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA  
FARAI MUTSAKA

**HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)** —

Soldiers and police fired live rounds, water cannons and tear gas at furious protesters who threw rocks and burned vehicles Wednesday in Zimbabwe's capital, dashing the optimism of an election that the country hoped would set it on a new course after decades of Robert Mugabe's rule. At least three people were reported killed.

Violence swept through central Harare after an official announcement that the ruling ZANU-PF party had won most of the seats in Parliament, an outcome that enraged opposition supporters who believe they have been cheated of victory.

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission's decision to delay announcing the results of the presidential race at least until Thursday — three days after the vote — seemed certain to bring more opposition anger if President Emmerson Mnangagwa is declared the winner. Alternatively, many Zimbabweans wonder whether the ruling establishment, including the military, would accept a win for the main opposition leader, Nelson Chamisa.

Monday's upbeat spectacle of millions of Zimbabweans voting peacefully was eclipsed 48 hours later by scenes of tanks and other military vehicles speeding through debris-strewn streets and soldiers beating protesters who had blocked main roads and set bonfires. Some journalists also were attacked.

Gunfire was heard downtown throughout the afternoon, including near the ruling party headquarters where protesters had gathered. Police fired tear gas and grabbed more canisters from an officer carrying them in a crate. Three people were killed, state broadcaster ZBC said.

Associated Press journalists saw two bodies and another person who had been shot in the leg. There were pools and trails of blood on the streets.



Opposition supporters gesture outside the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission offices in Harare, Zimbabwe, Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018.

Associated Press

The riots surged up to the fence of the Rainbow Towers Hotel & Conference Centre, where the electoral commission has been announcing results and many international election observers are staying. Inside the main gate, a water cannon mounted on a police vehicle blasted protesters who hurled rocks that bounced off its armored plating.

"They are trying to protest so they can get fair results," said Elisha Pfigu, a 31-year-old street vendor who warily watched soldiers at an intersection.

Pfigu said he was optimistic on election day for the country's first vote without Mugabe, who ruled for nearly four decades, on the ballot.

"Now it's different. It's totally different" he said. "People were happy on Monday. Now they are not happy. We are not going to rest."

Authorities invoked Zimbabwe's Public Order and Security Act, which allows police to ban public meetings or gatherings. The police can also ask the military for help in cases of public dis-

turbances. Under Mugabe, the law was used routinely to ban anti-government meetings and demonstrations since its enactment in 2002.

Mnangagwa, a former deputy president who succeeded Mugabe after a military takeover in November, blamed the opposition for the violence and said it was "meant to disrupt the electoral process," the state broadcaster reported.

The opposition, in turn, said security forces acted in a "disproportionate and unjustified" way, and it questioned why the military had been deployed.

"Are we in war? Are civilians the enemy of the state?" said Nkululeko Sibanda, spokesman for the Movement for Democratic Change, the main opposition party.

United Nations deputy spokesman Farhan Haq appealed to Zimbabwe "to exercise restraint and reject any form of violence while awaiting resolution of the disputes and announcement of the election results."

International monitors gave

their first assessments of the election, saying it was conducted in a relatively free environment and was a big improvement over past votes marred by violence and irregularities, although they noted significant problems.

European Union observers said "a truly level playing field was not achieved" in the election, pointing out the "misuse of state resources, instances of coercion and intimidation, partisan behavior by traditional leaders and overt bias in state media."

Elmar Brok, head of the EU observer mission, said there were "many shortcomings" in the election, but it was unclear whether they influenced the results.

The opposition alleged irregularities, saying results were not posted outside one-fifth of polling stations as required by law. MDC leader Chamisa has said outright that his own count shows he won the election, drawing government accusations of inciting violence.

After first indicating it would release presidential vote

totals on Wednesday, the electoral commission said it would wait until Thursday, adding that agents for the more than 20 candidates must verify them first.

"The more the presidential vote is delayed, the more it calls into question the population's confidence in the election process," said former Liberian leader Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the lead observer of a U.S. monitoring mission.

While the electoral commission legally has five days from the end of the election to announce results, Western observer groups urged the release of the presidential results as soon as possible. The EU mission questioned why presidential votes were counted first but were being announced last.

Many Zimbabweans looked to the vote as a launching pad for a return to the kind of international acceptance and relative prosperity that the country enjoyed in the first part of the rule of Mugabe, who took office after independence from white minority rule in 1980.

But the violence in Harare seemed to put those aspirations on hold. It was the first time the military was back in the streets since Mugabe's ouster — at that time, they were welcomed by residents as liberators. On Wednesday, they came to enforce a crackdown. At Harare's Parirenyatwa Hospital, a family wept in an emergency room where a man who had been fatally shot lay on a stretcher. At one point, the relatives blocked hospital staff from wheeling the body to the mortuary and demanded a police explanation; a plainclothes officer said they could return Thursday to pick up the body after a police investigation.

Jack Mufambi, a resident walking near the ruling party headquarters, said he was scared to go outdoors on Thursday. He said he had seen the body of someone cut down by gunfire.

"His eyes were open," Mufambi said. "He was dead." □



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## Hun Sen plays hardball to keep his grip on Cambodia

By GRANT PECK  
Associated Press

**BANGKOK (AP)** — Determined to extend his 33 years as Cambodia's strongman ruler, Prime Minister Hun Sen was not about to let an election derail what he believes is his destiny.

The 65-year-old leader had declared he intends to stay in office for 10 more years, and Sunday's general election victory by his Cambodian People's Party should get him halfway to that goal.

The walkover win was a foregone conclusion, with the government-influenced courts having dissolved the only credible opposition party last year.

In his first public appearance since the election, Hun Sen shook hands and posed for pictures Wednesday while inaugurating a new ferry service between Phnom Penh and a nearby town. Speaking to reporters, he hailed what he called his government's achievement of establishing "democracy and the process of peace."

Chalk up another success for Asia's most durable leader and the politics of guile and ruthlessness.

"Hun Sen is a born survivor," said Sebastian Strangio, author of a 2014 biography. "He has been in power now for more than half his life. He is somebody who apparently has very few hobbies. He spends most of his time in the weighing and accumulation of power."

He came from humble roots in the provinces. In the 1970s he joined Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge as it battled to seize power. He lost his



In this Sunday, July 29, 2018, file photo, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen casting his ballot at a polling station in Takhmua in Kandal province, Cambodia.

Associated Press

left eye in the final battle for Phnom Penh in 1975. But when a series of purges put his own life at risk he fled to Vietnam, returning to help oust his former comrades in 1979.

He rose quickly. By his late twenties he was installed as foreign minister by occupying Vietnamese forces, and in 1985, prime minister in a single-party communist regime.

When he lost a 1993 U.N.-supervised election to bring in multiparty democracy, he threatened war unless he was given a share of power. He got his way.

The arrangement of having two prime ministers proved unworkable. The partnership was broken up in 1997 by what some termed a coup by Hun Sen, whose forces co-opted, chased into exile or murdered his opponents after a few days

of bloody fighting in and around the capital.

With the levers of state power again solely in his hands, Hun Sen began to master electoral democracy with Machiavellian skill. His party employed violence on occasion, but tactics such as divide and conquer ultimately proved more rewarding.

As strong economic growth buoyed his control, Hun Sen began to assume the mantle of statesman and prepared his sons — appointed to important military positions — to be his political successors. A daughter controls the country's most important private television station.

Widespread land grabbing by Cambodian cronies and foreign investors triggered a tide of popular resentment and occasional violent resistance as the

2013 election approached. Heightened expectations among educated city dwellers included a desire for a freer society.

That election's results put the opposition Cambodian National Rescue Party within striking distance of power, winning 55 seats in the National Assembly against the CPP's 68, and 44 percent of the popular vote to the CPP's 48 percent.

It was a wake-up call for Hun Sen, particularly as opposition supporters took to the streets to back their demand for a fairer share of power.

After buying time with largely symbolic concessions, a methodical campaign was launched to break the back of the opposition.

It included the beating of two CNRP lawmakers by an organized mob out-

side parliament, but relied mostly on the country's tamed courts, mounting legal cases against the government's foes to sideline them.

The CNRP's two leaders were forced to stay abroad because of an old defamation conviction, and jailed pending trial for treason. The far-fetched allegation of plotting regime change with the backing of the United States was the basis for dissolving their party, banning more than 100 of its leaders from political activity for five years, and forcing out party members from national and local political offices. A crackdown on the media silenced other critical voices.

It was no more Mr. Nice Guy for Hun Sen, who had taken to projecting an avuncular image, especially on his Facebook page where he likes to post selfies of himself with other nation's leaders. The opposition showed its strength again in local elections last year, and Hun Sen lashed out at his critics. "Your tongue is the reason for war. If you still make insults and threats to kill, you have to prepare your coffin," he said, according to the Cambodia Daily newspaper, since forced to close. "To protect the peace for millions of people, if necessary, 100 or 200 must be eliminated. Please listen carefully. ... Whoever intends to undermine peace will receive what you deserve." Although the sharp criticisms he referred to were mostly from random social media postings, he pinned the blame on leaders of the CNRP. □



## Argentine doctors protest legal abortion ahead of key vote

By **ALMUDENA CALATRAVA**  
Associated Press

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina**

(AP) — A campaign to expand legal abortions in the homeland of Pope Francis is bitterly dividing Argentines — and increasingly even the profession that would be asked to carry them out.

Hundreds of physicians have staged anti-abortion protests as an abortion rights bill moves toward a vote in the Senate next week. Some have demonstrated while carrying fetus-shaped dolls and waving signs saying: "I'm a doctor, not a murderer." At one recent protest, they laid white medical coats on the ground outside the presidential palace.

While the Doctors for Life activist group claims about 1,000 members — only a small fraction of the country's physicians — its protests are feeding a debate in the profession as a whole about the move to legalize elective abortions in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy. Leaders of the prestigious Argentina Medical Society have endorsed the bill,



In this July 15, 2018 photo, a medical doctor holds a small plastic doll shaped like a fetus while chanting: "I'm a doctor, not a murderer," during protest against efforts to legalize abortion, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Associated Press

which has already passed the lower house of Congress. They said it would help reduce deaths among the estimated 400,000 to 500,000 women who now receive clandestine abortions each year.

But the equally august Academy of Medicine vehemently rejects the legis-

lation. The academy issued a statement that human life begins at conception and "to destroy a human embryo means impeding the birth of a human being."

"Nothing good can come when society chooses death as a solution," it said. An association of medical

birth control specialists issued a strong statement in favor of the proposed law. Officials at about 300 private hospitals and medical facilities have denounced it.

"The defense of life is at the very foundation of our institution," said Ernesto Beruti, chief of obstetrics at the

Austral University Hospital, which is linked to the conservative Catholic Opus Dei movement. "We see ever more doctors joining" the protests.

Argentina now allows abortion only in cases of rape or risks to a woman's health. But advocates say doctors and judges often continue to block legal abortions. Illegal abortions can lead to four years in prison for the woman and doctor alike.

The measure only narrowly passed in the Chamber of Deputies on June 14 after a long campaign by hundreds of feminist and human rights groups. Its advance appears to have galvanized opponents, religious and otherwise, to mobilize public protests ahead of a Senate vote tentatively set for Aug. 8. President Mauricio Macri has said he will sign the measure if it passes, despite opposing abortion.

Pope Francis this year denounced abortion as the "white glove" equivalent of the Nazi-era eugenics program and urged families "to accept the children that God gives them." □

## Survivor says Mexico plane hit burst of hail before crash

By **CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN**  
Associated Press

**DURANGO, Mexico (AP)** —

A U.S. passenger aboard a flight that crashed on take-off in northern Mexico said Wednesday that a strong burst of wind and hail hit the Aeromexico jetliner, apparently knocking it back to ground, where there were only moments to evacuate before it burned.

Alberto Herrera, a 35-year-old webpage engineer from Chicago, described the terrifying moments when the plane briefly became airborne before smacking belly-down onto a field beyond the edge of the runway.

"You start gaining speed and as soon as you start taking off all of the sudden the plane starts struggling and it's getting hit with hail," said Herrera, who was visiting the city of Durango for the baptism of his cousin's



In this photo, Red Cross workers and rescue workers carry an injured person on a stretcher, as airline workers walk away from the site where an Aeromexico airliner crashed in Durango, Mexico, Tuesday, July 31, 2018.

Associated Press

baby.

"The higher up we went into the storm the heavier the hail got and more wind

got to us," he recounted from his hotel room. "Then all of a sudden the plane starts rocking and it starts

seriously, seriously moving around and then hitting the ground."

The fire around the wings

eliminated the possibility of using wing exits, so Herrera said he moved toward a back exit and started helping other people leave the craft. Many walked to the end of the runway to wait for emergency vehicles.

Durango state Gov. Jose Aispuro said all 99 passengers and four crewmembers made it off the plane, but the pilot was severely injured.

About 49 people were hospitalized with injuries. Some people had burns on a quarter of their bodies, said Durango state Health Ministry spokesman Fernando Ros.

Aispuro said all were expected to live.

An Illinois priest was on the plane. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago said the Rev. Esequiel Sanchez suffered some injuries, but was alert and resting. □



## LOCAL



## Aruba Symphony Festival 2018 Ends on a High Note

ORANJESTAD —To open the closing concert, Aruba Symphony Festival surprised the large audience with an emotional rendition of the Aruban national anthem sung by the local choir ARS NOVA directed by Mrs. Mayra Kock-Garrido and accompanied by the Aruba Symphony Orchestra consisting of almost seventy students under the direction of Simon Gollo. The well known Aruban musician, Franklin Grana-dillo had arranged the music for the choir and orchestra.

The main event for the evening was Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E Minor op.64 by the internationally acclaimed Japanese violinist Kazuhiro Takagi who played the complete piece from memory. Maestro Takagi showed again why he is the concertmaster of four orchestras on three continents. The deafening applause he received inspired him to reprise with a piece that is not widely known, but gave him an opportunity to show his immense dexterity on the violin.

The final programmed piece was Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 in A Major. Op. 90 which the orchestra played masterly. The director Simon Gollo squeezed all he could out of the music students and they responded beautifully. At the end everybody felt content and happy. But Aruba Symphony Festival had yet another pleasant surprise. With Aruba's musical icon Padú del Caribe present, Aruba Symphony played, and Ars Nova sang, Padú's beloved waltz "Abo So". For the interpretation of this number Simon Gollo passed the director's baton to the popular Venezuelan musician, Jesús David Medina who had prepared the arrangement for choir and orchestra. Several people could not resist and sang along.

For many it was a pleasure to see our Minister of Culture, Mrs. Xiomara Ruiz-Maduro and our temporary Governor Mrs. Yvonne Laclé-Dirks, two persons who have been enthusiastic supporters of the Festival, climb the stage to congratulate the musicians and chat with mem-



bers of the board of Aruba Symphony Festival. For the young musicians it was an unforgettable experience. Only in Aruba!

Aruba Symphony Festival 2018 Is now history. The public's unanimous opinion is that this year's festival was better artistically than the previous

three. It certainly attracted more people and the public responded generously with donations. This is important because presenting a festival of quality like the Aruba Symphony Festival is costly. If Aruba wants to continue as the venue for the Festival, it must get strong support from all of us. □





## Take a culinary journey to India during CHASKA pop-up



ORANJESTAD — Renaissance Aruba is ready for another pop-up restaurant and we are sure you are too! The next pop-up edition #2 of CHASKA. As all Indian food lovers know recipes of India are characterised for their spicy ingredients. With the different pop-up restaurants of Renaissance Aruba you will experience a culinary journey without having to leave Aruba.

During CHASKA you will enjoy exquisite dishes from Mumbai, Banaras and New Delhi- 3 of the most visited culinary cities in India. CHASKA will be accentuated with music by a DJ but guests can also ask for Mehendi music. A complete unforgettable experience and to accompany this culinary ambience there will be Indian dancers too.

The Renaissance Aruba chefs will bring the essence of India during CHASKA. The pop-up event will take place at the building where La Linda used to be in the mainstreet on August 3 & 4. CHASKA will be open for lunch and dinner- from 12 pm till 10 PM. You can expect dishes such as Chicken Tikka Masala, Dal Makhani, Goa Fish Curry, Biryani (rice) and shrimps. Top off the lunch or dinner with something different and sweet, choose a dessert purely from India such as Sahi Tukda, Matka Kulfi, Gulab jamun with icecream. If you are looking for small bites you will have choices of Vegetarian Pakoras, Amritsari Fish, Pav Bhaji and much more. These will also be available as appetizers. At the end of your lunch or dinner you will receive a delicious Masala Chai. India has always stand out for its ingredients and nowadays continue to be on top of the list for its richness in flavor. For more information please call Renaissance Navigator at 523.6115 or visit their Facebook page Renaissance Aruba/events for the menu of CHASKA- Indian Pop Up. □

## Grant Thornton is expanding its presence in the Caribbean Region

ORANJESTAD – As of August 1st Grant Thornton officially announce its global expansion in the Dutch Caribbean region with offices in Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire y Sint Maarten.

With this rebranding Grand Thornton will have a total coverage in the Dutch Caribbean which includes Saba, St. Eustatius and Suriname. The office of Grand Thornton Aruba will be led by the partners Edsel Lopez and Hans Ruiter.

This expansion gives Grant Thornton who has already a considerable strength and solid presence in 13 offices across the region. The Dutch Caribbean is a strategically important market with significant commercial flow into the United States as well as the Netherlands making this region the biggest consumer market in Europe.

This rebranding means that the former PWC firm has become the largest firm in the Caribbean for Grant Thornton. Grand Thornton Dutch Caribbean consists of 5 partners and a total of 160 staff across its four offices. Grand Thornton is well known as the market leader in the Dutch Caribbean offering a wide variety of services to clients in all sectors. □





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PALM BEACH — Recently, Ms. Darline S. de Cuba of Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Loyal and Friendly visitors of Aruba as Ambassadors. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, Transportation, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20 and more consecutive years.

The honorees were:

Mr. Nat & Mrs. Karen Greenfield from Mundelein Illinois and Mr. Darryl M. & Mrs. Joan Inman from Brooklyn New York and whom brought with them their niece Jasmine Cierra banks who graduated recently. For Jasmine it was



her first visit to Aruba.

Ms. Darline de Cuba representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Jenny Boekhoudt member of Marriott Surf Club bestowed the certificates to the Ambassadors and handed over some presents to the honorees and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years.

The honorees stated that the reason for continuously coming to Aruba was the warm inviting sun, the gracious treatment from everyone, the Sea & the lovely weather. □





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## Birds of Aruba

### Brown Pelican

A very large, dark-bodied bird, unmistakable with its long bill and gular pouch. Watch for them sitting on pilings and zooming along the beach in front of your resort. You'll probably see them feeding, too, plunging into the sea from the air, then rising with their pouch full of sea water and, if successful, fish. Non-breeding plumage shows a white neck, and immatures are all dark with a white belly.



### Burrowing Owl- Shoco

The Burrowing Owl is a buffy-colored, long-legged owl with large, yellow eyes. This diurnal species can be seen sitting in open areas in small family groups, apparently unphased by the hot afternoon sun. Burrowing Owls are much loved by the native islanders and appear on Aruba's currency and postal stamps. Sadly, their populations seem to have declined greatly.



### Troupial

Certainly one of most striking of Aruba's native birds, the Troupial is a large oriole with sharply contrasting bright orange and black pattern, with bright blue around the eye and at the base of the bill. The Troupial's loud, piping song is thrilling to hear. Troupials make stops at some of the resorts to look for food but they often typically don't stay for long. Take a trip to the hills of Arikok National Park to make sure you don't leave the island without a look and a listen to this special bird.



### Caribbean Parakeet- Prikichi

As recently as 10 year ago, visitors to Aruba could delight at seeing flocks of native, wild parakeets roaming the countryside, sometimes coming near some of the resorts that maintain native vegetation. Unfortunately, this bird has experienced steep declines in recent years, apparently due to introduced boas. Although efforts are underway to eradicate the snake, such a task is proving difficult.

To try and locate Brown-throated Parakeets, listen to their loud, raucous shrieks. The birds may appear green at first glimpse, but a closer view will reveal the beautiful bluish colors in the wings, the yellow under the tail, and the yellowish eye ring. Birds from Aruba are described as a distinct subspecies and are drabber than the subspecies from Curaçao and Bonaire, which have brighter yellow on the face and throat.

### Blue-tailed Emerald- Blenchi

One of two hummingbird species that occurs regularly on the island, and the most common and widespread of the two. You'll undoubtedly see a few individuals of this species around your resort, frequenting blooming ornamental plantings. A good, close look will reveal a green that is brilliant, almost metallic. Males are all green with a rather short, dark blue tail that often appears black. Females and immatures have green backs and whitish underparts.



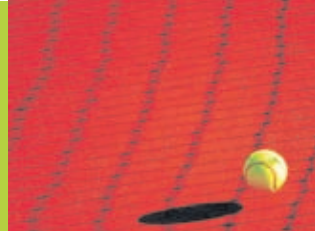
### Bananaquits- Barica Geel

A lively little bird with blackish back and head, white stripe above the eye, and bright yellow belly. Bananaquits may remind visitors from the eastern U.S. of the familiar and beloved backyard bird, the chickadee, which is why we fondly refer to the Bananaquit as the "chickadee of the Caribbean." The locals call them chibichibi (in Dutch, zuiker diefje), and when you hear them, you'll know why. They are common throughout the island including around hotels and if possible, may arrive at your breakfast table to sip juice or sample the jelly or syrup. They can be drawn to the balcony of your room by setting out fresh fruit or juice in a shallow bowl or dish. The buzzy song, repeated all day, soon becomes familiar and delightful background "noise" on Aruba. □





# SPORTS



Johanna Konta, from Britain, reacts after defeating Serena Williams, of the United States, during the Mubadala Silicon Valley Classic tennis tournament in San Jose, Calif., Tuesday, July 31, 2018. Konta won 6-1, 6-0.

Associated Press

## Serena loses in most lopsided defeat of career

By JANIE McCAULEY

AP Sports Writer

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) —

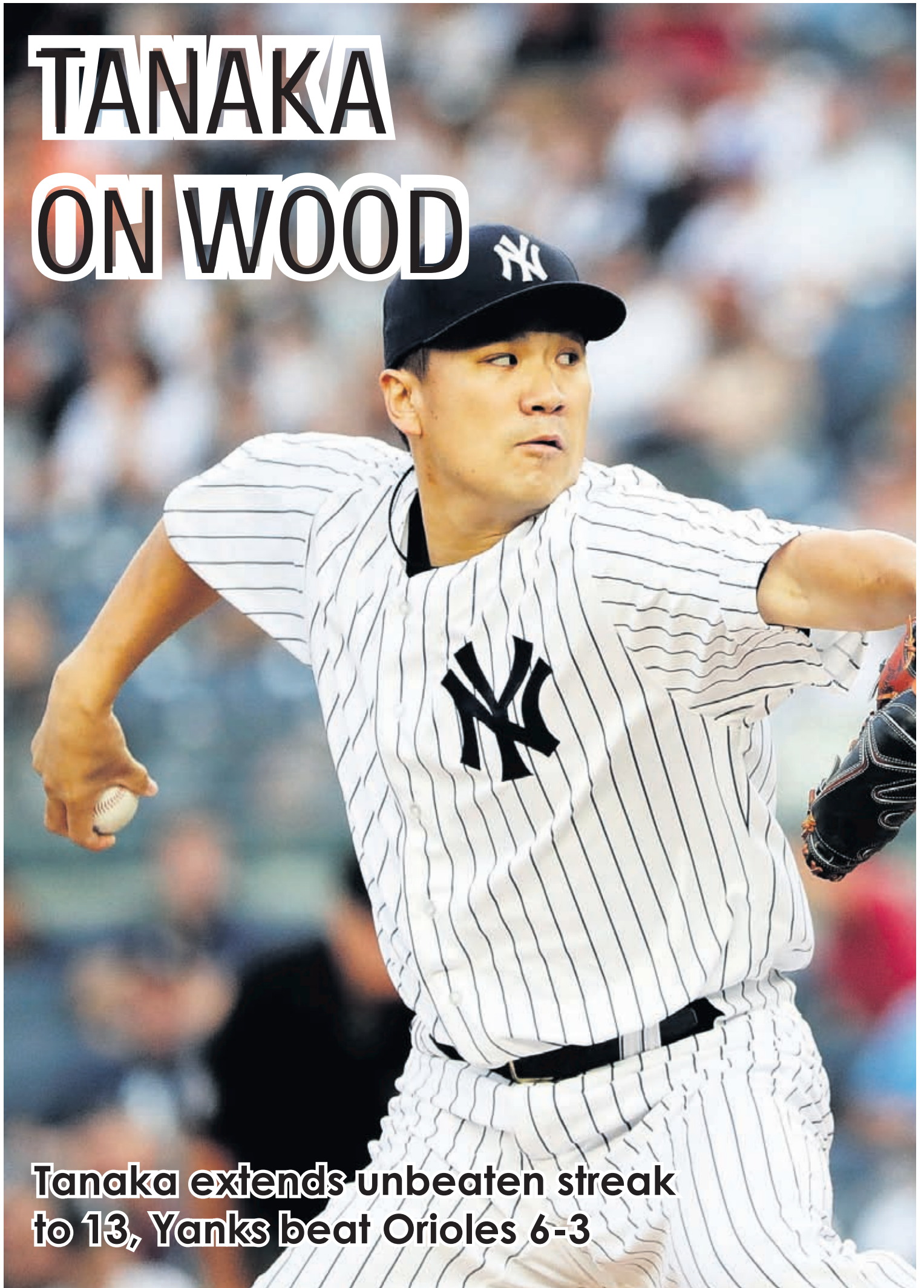
Serena Williams walked off the court offering waves to a supportive Bay Area crowd that certainly didn't expect to see the 23-time Grand Slam champion's early exit.

In the most lopsided defeat of her career, Williams' disappointing night ended in less than an hour as she lost her opening match of the Mubadala Silicon Valley Classic on Tuesday night to Johanna Konta, 6-1, 6-0.

When the 52-minute match ended on Williams' forehand into the net, she quickly grabbed her gear and headed off the court.

Continued on Next Page

# TANAKA ON WOOD



## Tanaka extends unbeaten streak to 13, Yanks beat Orioles 6-3

New York Yankees' Masahiro Tanaka, of Japan, delivers a pitch during the first inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles Tuesday, July 31, 2018, in New York.

Associated Press  
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# 3-time major champ Wawrinka out in 1st round at Washington

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**  
AP Tennis Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Stan Wawrinka's surgically repaired left knee is just fine. What's missing now for the three-time major champion as he goes through a rough season is the self-belief that comes with success. Wawrinka's latest quick exit came Tuesday night at the Citi Open, a 6-4, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (3) loss against 234th-ranked qualifier Donald Young of the U.S. in the first round of the hard-court tournament.

"I was missing a lot. Not feeling the way I wanted. I'm looking for confidence, for sure," said Wawrinka, who has been ranked No. 3 but is merely 198th at the moment on account of a 6-11 record in 2018 after two knee operations last year. "It's tough to not win a lot of matches. Then you start to think too much on the court."

This was Wawrinka's first match since bowing out of Wimbledon in the second round in early July; his rank-



Stan Wawrinka, of Switzerland, returns to Donald Young, of the United States, during the first round of the Citi Open tennis tournament Tuesday, July 31, 2018, in Washington.

Associated Press

ing is so low that he needed a wild-card entry just to get into qualifying for his next event, in Toronto.

The only other time Wawrinka entered the U.S. Open tuneup in Washington, in 2010, he also lost his opener.

Right now, his issue is the doubt can creep up at key points in a match.

"I feel I'm really close but,

at the same time, really far. The positive right now is that physically, I'm feeling good. Tennis-wise, I'm practicing well. I can put (in) a lot of work on the court," said Wawrinka, who has won the U.S. Open, Australian Open and French Open once apiece. "I know and I'm sure I will get where I want to be. It's just tough. It's a long process and you

have to accept (it)."

He and Young, who came into the day with just a 2-10 record this year, were supposed to play Monday night. But because of rain delays and a lengthy match before theirs, they only made it onto the court to warm up at 1 a.m., and then a downpour arrived, so the contest was postponed.

Wawrinka got broken in the first game Tuesday by dumping a forehand into the net; that turned out to be the match's only break. Wawrinka then was two points from losing at 5-3 in the second-set tiebreaker. But a series of miscues by Young, including a double-fault at 5-4, sent them to a third set. This time, Young held on, and he'll face 2014 U.S. Open runner-up Kei Nishikori on Wednesday.

"Fought a lot of nerves there, but I'm happy the end result was a 'W,'" Young said. "Closing matches is kind of like a skill you get from winning and I haven't done that — but I was able to do that."

No. 1 seed and defending champion Alexander Zverev took the first set against Malek Jaziri 6-2 in the main stadium's final match when play was suspended for the night after 1 a.m. because of rain. They'll resume Wednesday. "This is always a place that I've wanted to win and I've always struggled here. □

## SERENA

Continued from Previous Page

She had never won only one game — she won her serve for the initial game Tuesday then not another. She got two games at the 2014 WTA finals in Singapore, falling 6-0, 6-2 to Simona Halep.

"I know I can play a zillion times better so that kind of helps out, too. I have so many things on my mind I don't have time to be shocked about a loss that clearly wasn't at my best right now," Williams said. "When I was out there, was fighting. That's the only thing I can say, I wasn't just like giving it away and I was moving a lot better. So I'm just trying to take the positives out of it."

While Williams was encouraged by her court coverage, she hardly looked like herself on a cool summer evening. She double-faulted and landed drop shots in the net. Williams missed returns and sprayed her groundstrokes long and wide.

Konta, who captured her



Serena Williams, of the United States, reacts after missing a shot from Johanna Konta, of Britain, during the Mubadala Silicon Valley Classic tennis tournament in San Jose, Calif., Tuesday, July 31, 2018. Konta won 6-1, 6-0.

Associated Press

first WTA title two years ago at Stanford, got on a roll with a quick first set and didn't take a chance in letting Williams get back in it. Konta closed the first game of the second with consecutive aces under 100 mph.

"I think she played well in the second set," Williams said. "I wasn't sharp at all in the first set and I think she got confident and clearly ran away with it."

The sixth-seeded Williams is a three-time champion in the Bay Area. This marked the fifth tournament for the 36-year-old Williams since giving birth to her daughter, Alexis Olympia, last September. It's her first tournament since her straight-set Wimbledon loss to Angelique Kerber.

Williams shrugged in disbelief when things went well, and when they didn't. She gestured with her hand

when the ball hit the lowest part of the net.

Williams had moments of brilliant shot-making to win long rallies, then would put a drop shot into the net and sigh in disappointment.

The good shots were to be celebrated.

She pumped her left arm and yelled "yes!" after winning the first point of the second game in the second. Williams then outlasted Konta for a long third point but was unable to hold serve.

"It's difficult, I guess. It's not I guess, for sure," she said of trying to find that consistency again.

Williams, wearing a long-sleeved red dress and headband and cheered by the pro-Williams crowd, lost her second service game in the initial set and Konta then held for 3-1 as Williams made unforced errors with her timing not quite consistently there on the serve and ground game.

In the sixth game of the first set, Konta hit a 101 mph

ace for ad then Williams got it back to deuce before Konta held for 5-1.

Williams, a 23-time Grand Slam champion, returned to the Bay Area event for what is the former Stanford WTA stop that moved to San Jose State University for the first time.

Big sister Venus is also playing here this week.

From here, Serena Williams goes to Montreal next week as she received a wild card into the Rogers Cup.

Following her loss in the Wimbledon final to Angelique Kerber, Williams said she had proven to herself that she could still compete to win Grand Slams.

Her next Grand Slam title would tie her with Margaret Court for the most with 24. She already has the most major trophies in the professional era.

Williams was treated for frightening blood clots after having her baby. At the All England Club, she wore special compression leggings as a precaution. □



# Trade tornado: Dozier, Archer among 15 swaps on deadline day

By BEN WALKER  
AP Baseball Writer

For Brian Dozier, getting traded meant a dash to the airport and a long trip to Dodger Stadium. For Jake Diekmann, it was a lot easier — he simply rode the bullpen cart from one clubhouse to the other at Chase Field.

Chris Archer, Jonathan Schoop and a bunch of relievers moved on deadline day, a flurry of 15 swaps Tuesday before time ran out to make deals without waivers.

The trade market kept spinning at a dizzying pace. Every team except San Francisco made at least one deal since the All-Star Game, with Tampa Bay swinging seven.

Archer, a two-time All-Star, hugged teammates at Tropicana Field before heading to Pittsburgh. He is 3-5 with a 4.31 ERA in 17 starts this season, and joins a Pirates club that has

pushed back into the play-off race even after trading away Gerrit Cole and Andrew McCutchen in the offseason.

"They're super-hot right now, and they want me," Archer said. "I'm excited to be part of the organization that wants me, part of a rich baseball history, a hard-working community. I can't wait to get there."

The Rays sent former All-Star catcher Ramos to NL East-leading Philadelphia, while Leonys Martin, Kevin Gausman and Cameron Maybin also switched sides as contenders tweaked their rosters.

And why not? All but four National League teams began the day within 5 1/2 games of a playoff spot. The American League is more spread out — division leaders Boston, Cleveland and Houston have been busy.

Manny Machado, Cole Hamels, Zach Britton, Mike

Moustakas and Ian Kinsler were among the big names that moved earlier this month.

Bryce Harper, Jacob deGrom, J.T. Realmuto and McCutchen had been mentioned in trade speculation, but stayed put.

"I think whenever you hear your name or see your name on stuff, you always wonder. But I think that's just the business side of the game," Harper said. "It's part of the game."

One of Harper's teammates packed up.

Exactly a year after getting traded from Minnesota to Washington, reliever Brandon Kintzler was part of another deadline deal. This time, the Nationals sent him to the NL Central-leading Chicago Cubs.

"I thought they were joking. I figured it's not April's Fools. They called me in, I said, 'Am I traded?' They said yeah," Kintzler said.

An All-Star last year, Kintzler



Washington Nationals' Bryce Harper hugs and speaks to manager Dave Martinez before the team's baseball game against the New York Mets at Nationals Park, Tuesday, July 31, 2018, in Washington.

turns 34 on Wednesday.

"Birthday again tomorrow, so I'm traveling on my birthday again, so that's great. It is what it is," he said.

Dozier had been a fixture in Minnesota's lineup for years. But the Twins dipped this season, and they sent the power-hitting second baseman to the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers for infielder Logan For-

sythe and two minor leaguers.

Rather than starting at Target Field in Minneapolis, the 31-year-old Dozier hustled to join his new club as it hosted Milwaukee. He's now part of a revamped infield for the defending NL West champion Dodgers, who added Machado two weeks ago.

Continued on Page 22

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# Masahiro Tanaka throws six scoreless innings in Yankees' win

By The Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Masahiro Tanaka pitched six scoreless innings to extend his unbeaten streak to 13 starts, Miguel Andujar hit a three-run homer and New York beat Baltimore after the veteran-shedding Orioles dealt away three more players.

Coming off a three-hit shut-out of Tampa Bay, Tanaka found his command after a 31-pitch first inning and limited the Orioles to a pair of singles and a double. Tanaka (9-2) struck out eight and walked two, lowering his ERA to 2.00 over his last five starts. He is 7-0 in 13 starts since an April 17 loss against Miami.

Baltimore (32-75), coming off its first three-game winning streak since mid-May, traded infielder Jonathan Schoop to Milwaukee before the game for infielder Jonathan Villar and a pair of prospects, and dealt pitchers Kevin Gausman and Darren O'Day to Atlanta for four prospects and \$2.5 million in international signing bonus allotment. Yefry Ramirez (1-4), coming off his first big league win, allowed all six runs and lasted five innings.

Aroldis Chapman struck out the side for the second straight game and got his 29th save in 30 chances, his 21st in a row.

## PHILLIES 3, RED SOX 1

**BOSTON (AP)** — Jake Arrieta struck out seven in seven strong innings and Philadelphia snapped a four-game slide.

The Phillies earned a split in a two-game visit to Boston despite leaving 13 on base and going 1 for 8 with runners in scoring position.

Arrieta (9-6) allowed only one run and six hits to finish July 4-0 in six starts. Tommy Hunter pitched a perfect eighth and Seranthony Dominguez closed it out for his 11th save, although he did make it interesting by walking J.D. Martinez and hitting Xander Bogaerts with a pitch to open the ninth.

Drew Pomeranz (1-5) threw five innings and held the Phillies to two runs and three hits, but hurt himself



New York Yankees' Masahiro Tanaka, of Japan, delivers a pitch during the first inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles Tuesday, July 31, 2018, in New York.

Associated Press

with four walks and two hit batters.

## INDIANS 6, TWINS 2

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Jose Ramirez and Edwin Encarnacion combined to drive in five runs and Trevor Bauer earned his 10th win.

One day after hitting a pair of homers against the Twins, Ramirez's bat stayed hot at Target Field. He drove in a run with a double in the third inning and added an RBI single in the fifth as part of a three-hit night.

Bauer (10-6) went 6 1/3 innings for Cleveland and gave up two runs on four hits. It was the first time all season Bauer issued more walks (4) than strikeouts (3). The Twins started Ehre Adriansa at second base after trading Brian Dozier earlier in the day to the Los Angeles Dodgers. Dozier had spent seven seasons in Minnesota. Adriansa was hitless in two at-bats before being pinch hit for in the ninth.

Kyle Gibson (5-8) gave up three runs on five hits in six innings to earn his second loss in his last three starts.

## TIGERS 2, REDS 1

**DETROIT (AP)** — Matthew Boyd allowed four hits in eight scoreless innings, and Niko Goodrum homered in the fourth to lift Detroit.

Homer Bailey (1-8) retired

his first 11 batters before Goodrum went deep for his 10th home run of the year. The Tigers never gave up the lead. Boyd struck out seven and walked one before being lifted after 105 pitches.

Shane Greene allowed a run in the ninth but held on for his 22nd save in 25 chances.

Boyd (6-9) won his second straight start after going seven in a row without a victory.

## RAYS 10, ANGELS 6

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)** — After making a series of trades just before the non-waiver trade deadline, Tampa Bay broke through with a seven-run inning and beat Los Angeles despite Mike Trout's 30th home run. Trout's homer, which came off Ryan Yarbrough in the seventh inning, made him the second major leaguer to hit 30 home runs and steal 20 bases in a season three times before the age of 26. The only other player to do it was Willie Mays.

Yarbrough (10-5) became the first rookie to win 10 games this season despite giving up six runs on nine hits in five innings. He took over in the second inning after Rays starter Ryne Stanek pitched the first.

Carlos Gomez had two of the Tampa Bay's six hits in a seven-run fourth inning off Angels starter Tyler Skaggs (8-7). That inning left the Rays with a 10-1 lead.

## ROYALS 4, WHITE SOX 2

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Ryan O'Hearn hit a two-run homer in his major league debut, helping Danny Duffy and Kansas City beat Chicago.

Brett Phillips also hit a two-run shot for last-place Kansas City, which had dropped four of five. Duffy (7-9) pitched 5 2/3 scoreless innings, rebounding nicely from a rocky start against Detroit.

Matt Davidson hit a two-run shot in the seventh for his eighth homer against the Royals this season. But Tim Hill got one out, Jason Hammel worked a rocky eighth and Wily Peralta finished for his sixth save.

O'Hearn bounced to first in his first at-bat in the second. He came up again with one out and a runner on first in the fifth, and drove a 1-0 pitch from James Shields (4-13) over the wall in right.

## ASTROS 5, MARINERS 2

**SEATTLE (AP)** — Evan Gattis hit a two-run home run to put Houston ahead, Josh Reddick capped it

with a two-run shot in the ninth inning, and the Astros snapped a five-game losing streak.

Gattis' 21st home run of the season came in the sixth off Seattle starter Mike Leake and snapped a 1-1 tie. Leake (8-7) left a breaking ball in the middle of the plate and Gattis clubbed it over the left field fence to put the Astros in front.

Reddick greeted new Seattle reliever Zach Duke with a shot to deep right-center field in the ninth. It was the first home run allowed this season by Duke, who was acquired in a trade with Minnesota.

Charlie Morton (12-2) gave up two runs and six hits while striking out eight in six innings. Hector Rondon pitched the ninth for his 10th save.

Leake allowed eight hits and struck out four. He allowed three earned runs or more for just the fourth time in his past 13 starts.

## ATHLETICS 6, BLUE JAYS 2

**OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)** — Khris Davis homered among his three hits and Matt Olson had two RBIs to lead Oakland.

Mark Canha doubled twice and stole home and Marcus Semien added two hits.

Bob Melvin celebrated his 600th win as manager of the A's — tied for third-most in franchise history behind Connie Mack (3,582) and Tony LaRussa (798).

Oakland moved within one game of Seattle for the second wild card. The A's are 29-10 since June 16, the best record in baseball.

Justin Smoak homered for Toronto, which has lost six of eight.

Trevor Cahill (3-2) overcame an uneven night and allowed two runs in six innings.

The right-hander has won consecutive starts for the first time since May 2017. Yusmeiro Petit, Jeurys Familia and Blake Treinen retired three batters apiece to complete the six-hitter.

Toronto starter Sam Gaviglio (2-4) gave up five runs and eight hits in 2 2/3 innings. □





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## Nationals set team scoring record, rout Reyes, Mets 25-4

**By The Associated Press**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — In the highest-scoring game in franchise history, Daniel Murphy hit two early home runs and the Washington Nationals kept pouring it on against emergency reliever Jose Reyes and the New York Mets in a 25-4 rout Tuesday night.

Trea Turner, who apologized before the game to his teammates for homophobic and racially insensitive tweets he sent several years ago, had four of Washington's 26 hits. Pitcher Tanner Roark (5-12) hit a three-run double during a seven-run first inning.

The Nationals set the team scoring mark dating to their days as the Montreal Expos in 1969. It was the Mets' most-lopsided loss in their 57-season history, worse than a 26-7 pounding by Philadelphia in 1985.

Reyes made the first pitching appearance of his career, and the 35-year-old infielder got tagged for home runs by Matt Adams and Mark Reynolds in a six-run eighth. Throwing a fastball in the mid-80s mph and a curve in the upper 40s, Reyes gave up five hits and walked two.

Reyes also plunked Ryan Zimmerman with a soft toss. After getting hit in the leg, Zimmerman playfully faked a charge toward the mound, drawing a laugh from Reyes, who wore one of ace Jacob deGrom's gloves on the mound.

The game got so out of hand, Mets television announcers Keith Hernandez, Ron Darling and Gary Cohen took turns reading verbatim from the team's media guide in the late innings

— the SNY network played the theme from "Masterpiece Theatre" in the background.

Steven Matz (5-9) got only two outs and allowed seven runs in the shortest start of his career.

### PIRATES 5, CUBS 4

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Gregory Polanco hit his team-leading 19th home run, Francisco Cervelli added his 10th of the season and Pittsburgh finished off a frantic trade deadline day with a victory.

Hours after trading for Texas closer Keone Kela and Tampa Bay starter Chris Archer to give their postseason hopes a jolt, the Pirates won for the 16th time in 20 games by getting to Jon Lester (12-4) in the middle innings and holding on late. Polanco's solo homer in the eighth gave Pittsburgh a two-run cushion. The Pirates needed it after closer Felipe Vazquez gave up a single to pinch-hitter David Bote leading off the top of the ninth and Addison Russell followed with a shot to the gap in right-center that scored Bote.

Russell sped to third on the play and was initially ruled safe, but the call was overturned upon review. Vazquez retired the next two batters to pick up his 24th save in 28 opportunities.

Jameson Taillon (8-8) allowed three runs on seven hits in 6 2/3 innings of work, his lone mistake an off-speed pitch to Javy Baez in the fourth that Baez turned into a three-run homer that tied the game.

### BRAVES 11, MARLINS 6

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Kolby Allard, supported by a 19-hit



New York Mets shortstop Jose Reyes pitches in relief during the eighth inning of the team's baseball game against the Washington Nationals at Nationals Park, Tuesday, July 31, 2018, in Washington. Associated Press

attack that included three home runs, won his major league debut.

Kurt Suzuki hit a three-run double in Atlanta's five-run fourth.

Ronald Acuna Jr. drove in two runs with three hits, including a leadoff homer in the first. Nick Markakis added a two-run homer and Johan Camargo also homered.

Allard (1-0), a 2015 first-round draft pick, allowed five runs, four earned, on nine hits and two walks in five-plus innings.

Luke Jackson pitched three perfect innings with four strikeouts.

Dan Straily (4-5) allowed eight runs, five earned, on 11 hits in 3 2/3 innings.

### GIANTS 3, PADRES 2, 10 INNING

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — Brandon Crawford singled in the go-ahead run with two outs in the 10th inning and San Francisco got seven strong innings from rookie right-hander Dereck Rodriguez to give San Diego its seventh straight loss.

Andrew McCutchen hom-

ered for the Giants, who swept the two-game series and won their third straight game.

Evan Longoria tripled leading off the 10th against Phil Maton (0-2) and scored on Crawford's single to right. Tony Watson (4-4) pitched a perfect ninth for the win, and Will Smith pitched the 10th for his sixth save.

### ROCKIES 6, CARDINALS 3

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — Charlie Blackmon and Carlos Gonzalez each went deep, Jon Gray pitched into the eighth inning and Colorado beat St. Louis.

Gray (9-7) struck out five over 7 1/3 innings, helping Colorado finish the month 17-6. Gray allowed three runs, two earned, with four hits and two walks. Wade Davis got his 31st save in 35 opportunities with a 1-2-3 ninth inning.

Chasen Shreve, making his first appearance for St. Louis since coming over in a July 28 trade with the Yankees, gave up a double to Gerardo Parra.

Jack Flaherty (4-6) pitched 5 1/3 innings.

### DIAMONDBACKS 6, RANGERS 0

**PHOENIX (AP)** — Zack Godley matched a career high with 10 strikeouts, leading Arizona past Texas to move back atop the NL West.

Arizona (60-49) overtook the Dodgers (59-49) for first place when Los Angeles fell 1-0 to Milwaukee. That came hours after the Diamondbacks added relievers Brad Ziegler and Jake Diekman via trades just ahead of the non-waiver deadline.

Diekman was acquired from the Rangers and was driven from one clubhouse to another by Arizona's bullpen cart.

Godley (12-6) allowed two hits. He struck out the lead-off batter in each of his seven innings.

Nick Ahmed hit a two-run double as part of a three-run fourth inning to give Godley more than enough support.

Rangers starter Bartolo Colon (5-10) was knocked around for five runs and seven hits in five innings. □



# Ohio State's Meyer put on leave, investigation opened

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

Ohio State placed football coach Urban Meyer on paid administrative leave Wednesday while it investigates claims that his wife knew about allegations of domestic violence against an assistant coach years before he was fired last week.

Courtney Smith gave an interview to Stadium and provided text messages to former ESPN reporter Brett McMurphy between her and Shelley Meyer in 2015 and with the wives of other Buckeyes coaches. Courtney Smith also provided threatening texts she said came from her ex-husband, former Ohio State assistant Zach Smith.

"Shelley said she was going to have to tell Urban," Courtney Smith told Stadium. "I said: 'That's fine, you should tell Urban.'"

Zach Smith was fired last week after an Ohio court granted a domestic violence protective order to Courtney Smith.

Hours after Courtney Smith's interview was posted online, Ohio State said it was conducting an investigation into the allegations and Meyer was being placed on leave. Offensive coordinator Ryan Day will serve as acting head coach for the Buckeyes, expected to be one of the top teams in the



In this April 14, 2018, file photo, Ohio Setate coach Urban Meyer watches the NCAA college football team's spring game in Columbus, Ohio.

Associated Press

nation again this season. Ohio State's first preseason practice is scheduled for Friday. The season starts Sept. 1 with a game against Oregon State in Columbus, Ohio.

Meyer said in a statement

he and athletic director Gene Smith agreed that his being on leave was best for the investigation.

"This allows the team to conduct training camp with minimal distraction. I eagerly look forward to the resolution of this matter," Meyer said.

Meyer is heading into his seventh season at Ohio State, where he is 73-8 with a national title in 2014 and two Big Ten Conference championships. Shelley Meyer is a registered nurse and is employed as an instructor at Ohio State. Both Meyer and his wife could be in violation of Title IX policy on reporting allegations of domestic violence against university employees.

Zach Smith was charged in May with misdemeanor criminal trespass. At the time of the charge, Zach Smith's attorney said Courtney Smith had accused him of driving to her apartment after she told him they would meet elsewhere so

he could drop off their son. Zach Smith pleaded not guilty last month. A hearing has been scheduled for Friday.

Zach Smith was also accused of aggravated battery on his then-pregnant wife in 2009 while he was a graduate assistant on Meyer's staff at Florida. The charge was dropped because of insufficient evidence. Urban Meyer brought Smith, the grandson of late Buckeyes coach Earle Bruce, to Ohio State in 2012. Meyer worked for Bruce and considers him a mentor.

Two police reports filed in 2015 in Ohio's Powell County, after the Smiths separated in June of that year, accused Zach Smith of abuse. Charges were never filed. At Big Ten media days, Meyer said he knew of the incident in 2009 and that he and Shelley Meyer addressed it with the Smiths. He was also asked about the 2015 incident alleged by Courtney Smith.

"I can't say it didn't happen because I wasn't there," he replied. "I was never told about anything and nothing ever came to light. I've never had a conversation about it. I know nothing about it. First I heard about that was last night. No, and I asked some people back at the office to call and say what happened and they came back and said they know nothing about it."

The Smiths divorced in 2016. Meyer is one of the most successful coaches in college football history, with three national championships and an .851 winning percentage in 16 seasons at Bowling Green, Utah, Florida and now Ohio State, the team he grew up rooting for in Northeast Ohio.

Meyer won national championships with Florida in 2006 and '08, but his teams also had more than two dozen players get into trouble with the law. He resigned twice at Florida, citing health reasons. First in 2009 season after the Gators lost the Southeastern Conference championship game while trying to repeat as national champs. He changed his mind soon after and coached another season. The Gators went 8-5 and this time he stepped down for good.

Meyer was out of coaching for a season, but was hired by Ohio State in November 2011 to replace coach Jim Tressel, who was fired before that season for lying to the NCAA and university of about rules violation committed by some of his players.

Since returning to coaching, Meyer's program has been one of the most dominant in college football and his players and coaches have mostly stayed out of major trouble.

Meyer did face some criticism in 2013 for allowing running back Carlos Hyde to return to the team after he was charged with striking a woman in a bar. The case was dropped by police when the woman chose not to pursue charges, but Hyde was suspended three games by Ohio State. □

## TRADE TORNADO

Continued from Page 19

"Brian's brand here in Minnesota, I don't know if you can get much better than that," Twins manager Paul Molitor said. "Everything that he's done for the community and the way that he's played the game, he's set a great example for our young guys throughout, and you're going to miss a guy like that."

The New York Mets had discussions about their talent-rich young pitchers, who include deGrom, Noah Syndergaard and Zack Wheeler.

"We were not going to move those players unless it involved considerable talent coming back in our

direction," assistant general manager John Ricco said.

Diekman definitely was on the go.

The 31-year-old lefty struck out two while pitching for Texas on Monday night in a win at Arizona. The Diamondbacks reacquired reliever Brad Ziegler from Miami early Tuesday, then boosted their bullpen by getting Diekman from the Rangers.

Wanting to make Diekman's move easy, the Diamondbacks offered the services of the bullpen cart used to ferry relievers into the game.

"They asked and I was like, 'Yeah, I don't want to carry all of my stuff,'" Diekman said. □



# Long history at Firestone, 1 man who's seen it all

By DOUG FERGUSON

AKRON, Ohio (AP) —

Deemed to be too young and too small for work, Paul Lazoran turned to walk away when the Firestone Country Club pro told him he could sit in a corner of the golf shop and clean clubs for \$2 a day.

That was 1951. Lazoran was 9. And he never left.

He was there in 1954 to watch Tommy Bolt win the Rubber City Open, the first tournament at Firestone. He was the caddie for Arnold Palmer, his hero, in the 1964 World Series of Golf, and for Gary Player the following year when Player won the four-man exhibition and paid Lazoran \$2,500, enough for a down payment on a house.

He drank beers into the night with Nick Price when the 26-year-old from Zimbabwe won his first title in America.

Tiger Woods?

Lazoran was there for all eight of his victories at Firestone, and one stands out in particular.

"I could hear the ball going over the roof," Lazoran, now 76, said Tuesday as he geared up for his 89th event at the 90-year-old club in northeast Ohio. "It crossed over the roof down to where we keep all the trash. One of the cooks there thought he found a golf ball."

That was Josh Stuber, who was delivering a batch of crunchy cream pies when he stumbled across the golf ball. Apparently not noticing "TIGER" in small, block letters, he stuffed it in his pocket and drove off. Be-



Paul Lazoran poses for a photo inside the golf locker room at the Firestone County Club in Akron, Ohio on Aug. 4, 2010.

Associated Press

cause the clubhouse area was not out-of-bounds, Woods received a free drop, made bogey to end the second round and went on to win in a playoff. Woods returns to Firestone one last time. This is the final edition of the Bridgestone Invitational because the World Golf Championship will have a new sponsor (FedEx) on a different golf course (TPC Southwind) in Memphis, Tennessee, next year.

It will not be the end of golf at Firestone.

Filling the void will be the Senior Players Championship, which gives one of the five majors on the PGA Tour Champions a sense of stability, if not nostalgia.

There is deep history at Firestone, which has hosted the PGA Championship three times — Jack Nicklaus won

his 14th major in 1975 at Firestone — the Rubber City Open, the American Golf Classic, the CBS Golf Classic and the World Series of Golf, which preceded the World Golf Championship. It has plenty of history. Lazoran has lived every bit of it.

He went from cleaning clubs to selling sandwiches at the halfway house to working as a caddie. He was an assistant pro under Bobby Nichols and worked in the locker room for three decades. He retired from full-time work in 2010, but Lazoran still drops in for a few hours each day during the tournament to work in the golf shop.

He feels no sense of despair that Firestone is losing the world's best players, replaced by the world's best players 50 and older.

"I've been there for 67 years, and the area has always supported golf," he said.

His favorite memory was working for Player because they won, and for Palmer because he was the King. "He was my idol," Lazoran said. "I was a nervous wreck on the first tee. I could feel my hands shaking. I'm caddy-dying for the King. And he looked over at me and said, 'I'm nervous enough for the two of us. Just relax.'" Firestone often served as an introduction for international stars to an American audience, whether it was Jose Maria Olazabal in 1990 when he won by 12 shots, or Price winning by four shots over Nicklaus.

"Nick Price, when he won the tournament, he looked over at me and said, 'I'm from Zimbabwe and I

don't know anybody here. Would you like to have a few beers?'" Lazoran said. "To this day, he still knows my name and he's a great friend."

The South Course was expanded for its first major, the 1960 PGA Championship, when Robert Trent Jones added some 50 bunkers, two ponds and 500-plus yards, along with reducing par to 70 for championship golf.

But it's always hosted the world's best, even before it became a World Golf Championship where players now compete for \$10 million in prize money, with \$1.7 million going to the winner. And to think Player earned \$50,000 for his 1965 victory.

"Tiger probably has taken \$11 or \$12 million from Firestone," Lazoran said with a laugh.

Sharp memory. Woods has earned \$11,060,525 in his 16 appearances at Firestone. This will be the last one, and it was a big deal for Woods to get back. He tied for sixth at the British Open, allowing him to move to No. 50 in the world.

Woods hasn't won this year, though it shouldn't be a surprise if he does. He had the lead for a short time in the final round at Carnoustie. He missed a playoff by one shot at the Valspar Championship in March.

His last victory was five years ago this week at the Bridgestone Invitational. Lazoran wouldn't be surprised to see him win again this week, because he's seen just about everything else at Firestone. □

## Milan, Turin, Cortina to launch joint bid for 2026 Olympics

MILAN (AP) — Italy will launch a three-city bid to host the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan, Turin and Cortina.

The Italian Olympic Committee announced the move on Wednesday, having decided a joint bid was more cost effective. It was unanimously voted for by the CONI board.

Milan Mayor Giuseppe

Sala, however, has criticized the decision and says that while his city would still be willing to host Olympic events, it will not be involved in the governance of the bid.

According to CONI's 'Olympic Masterplan', Milan will host four events: curling, women's ice hockey, short track speed skating and figure skating. Cor-

tina would have the same number of competitions, with the sliding sports (bobsleigh, skeleton and luge) and Alpine skiing, while the Nordic combined and ski jumping would be held in nearby Val di Fiemme.

Speed skating and men's ice hockey would take place in Turin, with slalom Alpine skiing in nearby Sestriere. Snowboarding, bi-

athlon, freestyle and Nordic skiing would be staged in the Valtellina region, which is between Milan and Cortina. Other possible candidates for the 2026 Olympics are: Stockholm; Erzurum, Turkey; Calgary, Canada; and Sapporo, Japan.

International Olympic Committee members will pick the host in Milan in October 2019. Two years ago,

Italy was forced to suspend Rome's bid for the 2024 Summer Olympics because of staunch opposition from the city's mayor.

It was the second time in four years a Rome bid was withdrawn or suspended. In 2012, then-premier Mario Monti scrapped the city's bid for the 2020 Olympics because of financial concerns. □



# A robotic hand can juggle a cube \_ with lots of training

By RYAN NAKASHIMA

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

How long does it take a robotic hand to learn to juggle a cube?

About 100 years, give or take.

That's how much virtual computing time it took researchers at OpenAI, the non-profit artificial intelligence lab funded by Elon Musk and others, to train its disembodied hand. The team paid Google \$3,500 to run its software on thousands of computers simultaneously, crunching the actual time to 48 hours. After training the robot in a virtual environment, the team put it to a test in the real world.

The hand, called Dactyl, learned to move itself, the team of two dozen researchers disclosed this week. Its job is simply to adjust the cube so that one of its letters — "O," "P," "E," "N," "A" or "I" — faces upward to match a random selection.



This undated photo provided by OpenAI shows a robotic hand holding a cube at the company's research lab in San Francisco.

Associated Press

Ken Goldberg, a University of California, Berkeley robotics professor who isn't affiliated with the project, said OpenAI's achievement is a big deal because it demonstrates how robots trained in a virtual environment can operate in the real world. His lab is trying something similar with a robot called Dex-Net, though

its hand is simpler and the objects it manipulates are more complex.

"The key is the idea that you can make so much progress in simulation," he said. "This is a plausible path forward, when doing physical experiments is very hard." Dactyl's real-world fingers are tracked by infrared dots and cameras. In training,

every simulated movement that brought the cube closer to the goal gave Dactyl a small reward. Dropping the cube caused it to feel a penalty 20 times as big. The process is called reinforcement learning. The robot software repeats the attempts millions of times in a simulated environment, trying over and over to get the highest reward. OpenAI used roughly the same algorithm it used to beat human players in a video game, "Dota 2."

In real life, a team of researchers worked about a year to get the mechanical hand to this point.

Why?

For one, the hand in a simulated environment doesn't understand friction. So even though its real fingers are rubbery, Dactyl lacks human understanding about the best grips.

Researchers injected their simulated environment with changes to gravity, hand angle and other vari-

ables so the software learns to operate in a way that is adaptable. That helped narrow the gap between real-world results and simulated ones, which were much better.

The variations helped the hand succeed putting the right letter face up more than a dozen times in a row before dropping the cube. In simulation, the hand typically succeeded 50 times in a row before the test was stopped.

OpenAI's goal is to develop artificial general intelligence, or machines that think and learn like humans, in a way that is safe for people and widely distributed.

Musk has warned that if AI systems are developed only by for-profit companies or powerful governments, they could one day exceed human smarts and be more dangerous than nuclear war with North Korea. □



In this Aug. 25, 2016, file photo, the logo of the Israeli NSO Group company is displayed on a building where they had offices until few months ago in Herzliya, Israel.

Associated Press

By RAPHAEL SATTER

AP Cybersecurity Writer

LONDON (AP) — An Amnesty International employee has been targeted with Israeli-made surveillance software, the human rights group said Wednesday, adding to a growing number of examples of Israeli technology being used to spy on human rights workers and opposition figures in the Middle East and beyond.

In a 20-page report, Am-

nesty outlined how it thinks a hacker tried to break into an unidentified staff member's smartphone in early June by baiting the employee with a WhatsApp message about a protest in front of the Saudi Embassy in Washington.

The London-based human rights organization said it traced the malicious link in the message to a network of sites tied to the NSO Group, an Israeli surveillance company implicated

## Human rights group: Employee targeted with Israeli spyware

in a series of digital break-in attempts, including a campaign to compromise proponents of a soda tax in Mexico and an effort to hack into the phone of an Arab dissident that prompted an update to Apple's operating system.

Joshua Franco, Amnesty's head of technology and human rights, said the latest hacking attempt was emblematic of the increased digital risk faced by activists worldwide.

"This is the new normal for human rights defenders," Franco said.

NSO said in a written statement that its product was "intended to be used exclusively for the investigation and prevention of crime and terrorism" and that allegations of wrongdoing would be investigated. In response to a series of written questions, the company said past allegations of customer misuse had, in an undisclosed number of cas-

es, led to the termination of contracts.

Amnesty's findings were corroborated by internet watchdog Citizen Lab, which has been tracking NSO spyware for two years and is based at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs.

In its own report being released Wednesday, Citizen Lab said it so far had counted some 175 targets of NSO spyware worldwide, including 150 people in Panama identified as part of a massive domestic espionage scandal swirling around the country's former president. The Amnesty International report said the organization identified a second human rights activist, in Saudi Arabia, who was targeted in a similar way to its staffer. Citizen Lab said it found traces of similar hacking attempts tied to Qatar or Saudi, hinting at the use of the Israeli spyware elsewhere in the Gulf.

Any possible use of Israeli technology to police dissent in the Arab world could raise uncomfortable questions both for Israel, which still sees itself as a bastion of democracy in the region, and for countries with no formal diplomatic ties to the Jewish state.

For Amnesty's Franco, it was a sign of an out-of-control trade in high-tech surveillance tools.

"This is a huge market that's completely opaque and under-regulated," he said. □





# Apple soars but energy, industrial stocks weigh on market

By MARLEY JAY

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Apple is on pace for its biggest gain in a year and a half Wednesday as investors cheer its latest quarterly report, which included strong iPhone sales and a forecast that was better than expected. Banks are climbing as interest rates turn higher and the yield on the 10-year Treasury note hit the 3 percent mark. Energy companies are slumping along with oil prices.

**KEEPING SCORE:** The S&P 500 index remained at 2,815 as of 11:35 a.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 24 points, or 0.1 percent, to 25,390. The jump in Apple stock was worth 70 Dow points, but drops in industrial and energy companies pulled the index lower.

The Nasdaq composite climbed 24 points, or 0.3 percent, to 7,695.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks lost 5 points, or 0.3 percent, to 1,665 and almost two-thirds of the stocks on the New York Stock Exchange traded lower.

The S&P 500 index rose 3.6 percent in July in spite of the trade war between the U.S. and China. The markets have gotten a lift from strong company earnings as well as efforts by the U.S. and European Union to resolve their trade differences.

**APPLE EARNINGS:** Apple said the average selling price for the iPhone jumped 20 percent in its latest quarter and its third-quarter profit and sales both surpassed analyst projections. Apple's third fiscal quarter is usually its weakest. The company's fourth-quarter revenue forecast also topped Wall Street estimates.

Apple surged 5.2 percent to \$200.27. That put the most valuable publicly traded U.S. company on track to set another all-time high. Market watchers have also been wondering if Apple will soon become the first publicly traded company to surpass \$1 trillion in value. It's currently at about \$984



In this May 10, 2018, file photo signs for the New York Stock Exchange hang above the trading floor.

billion.

**JOBS SURVEY:** ADP said hiring picked up in June, suggesting employers are still able to find the workers they need despite the low unemployment rate. The survey showed strong hiring by health care providers, hotels and restaurants and manufacturers. The federal government will release a jobs report Friday that covers hiring by private and public employers.

**BONDS:** Bond prices sank. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 3 percent from 2.96 percent. The increase in bond yields was good for bank stocks. Higher yields force interest rates on mortgages and other loans higher, making it more profitable for banks to lend money. Bank of America jumped 1.7 percent to \$31.41 and Citigroup rallied 1.2 percent to \$72.73.

The rising yields drew investors to bonds and away from high-dividend stocks

like consumer goods makers. PepsiCo fell 1.2 percent to \$113.64 and paper towel maker Kimberly-Clark shed 1.5 percent to \$112.08. The price of gold gave up 0.6 percent to \$1,226.40 an ounce.

**BURNING THROUGH EARNINGS:** SodaStream jumped 2269 percent to \$107.03 after the maker of beverage carbonation systems raised its annual forecasts following a strong quarterly report. Cheesecake Factory said higher insurance and legal costs hurt its earnings and the stock fell 12 percent to \$49.31.

Clothing maker Hanesbrands plunged 19.1 percent to \$18.01 after it posted a smaller-than-expected profit and said Target won't renew a contract for an exclusive line of Champion clothing when the deal expires in January 2020. Big Five Sporting Goods dropped 6.2 percent to \$6.05 after it said sales weakened at the end

of its second quarter as bad weather hurt sales of camping and water sports items.

Medicaid services company Molina Healthcare surged 16.6 percent to \$121.37 and music streaming company Pandora added to its big rally this year after it said subscription revenue jumped. It gained 15.3 percent to \$7.77.

**ENERGY:** Benchmark U.S. crude dropped 1.8 percent to \$67.52 per barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 1.7 percent to \$72.92 per barrel in London.

Exxon Mobil slid 1.2 percent to \$80.55 and Chevron lost 0.9 percent to \$125.11.

**BRAKEDOWN:** Auto makers mostly traded lower as they reported their monthly sales. General Motors fell 1.5 percent to \$37.35 and Ford slipped 1.4 percent to \$9.90. Fiat Chrysler sank 2.1 percent to \$16.61.

Tesla, meanwhile, is scheduled to report its quarterly results after the close of trading. It added 0.1 percent to \$298.49.

**TRADE QUESTIONS:** Bloomberg News reported that the Trump administration is considering a 25 percent tax on \$200 billion in imports from China, above the 10 percent the administration has been considering. China says it will retaliate if that happens. A day earlier, stocks got a boost from a report the two sides were hoping to hold more talks to resolve the trade war. Both countries put tariffs on \$34 billion in goods in early July.

Industrial companies gave up a big portion of their gains from a day ago. Caterpillar skidded 2.8 percent to \$139.83 and Deere retreated 2.1 percent to \$141.75.

**FED AHEAD:** The Federal Reserve will wrap up its latest meeting Wednesday afternoon. Investors don't expect it to raise interest rates, but it's widely expected to boost rates again in September and the Fed has said it intends to raise rates one more time later in the year. □

Associated Press

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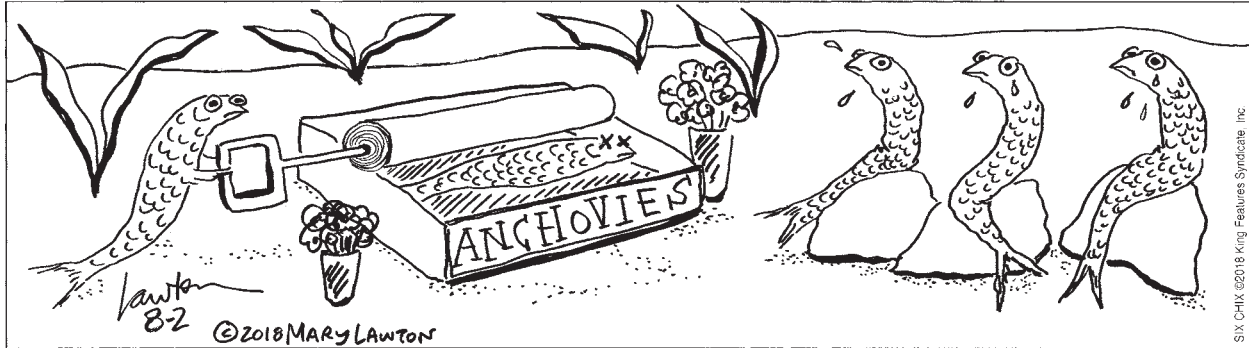
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## Mutts



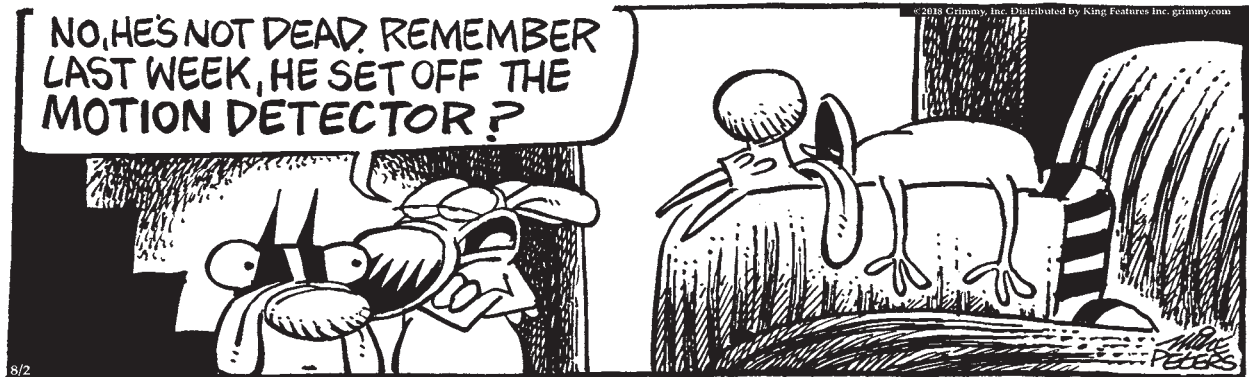
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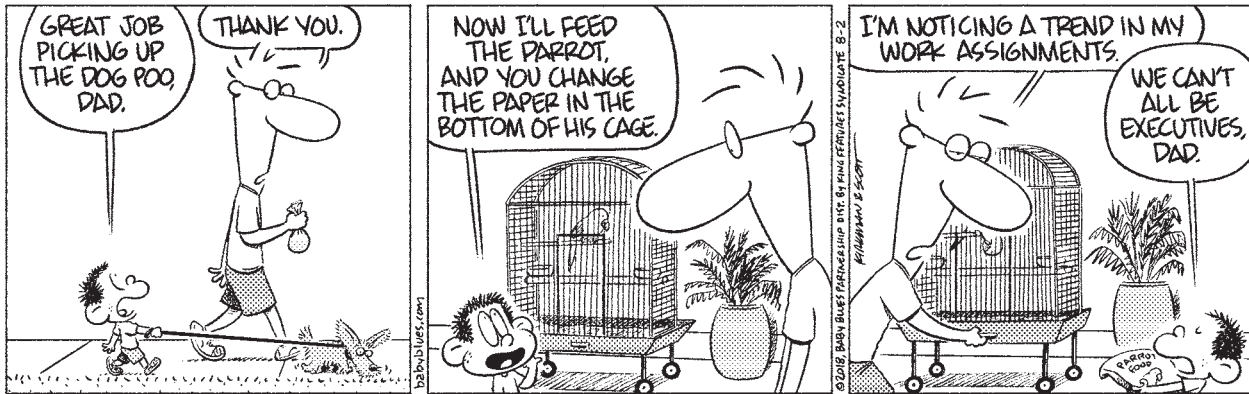
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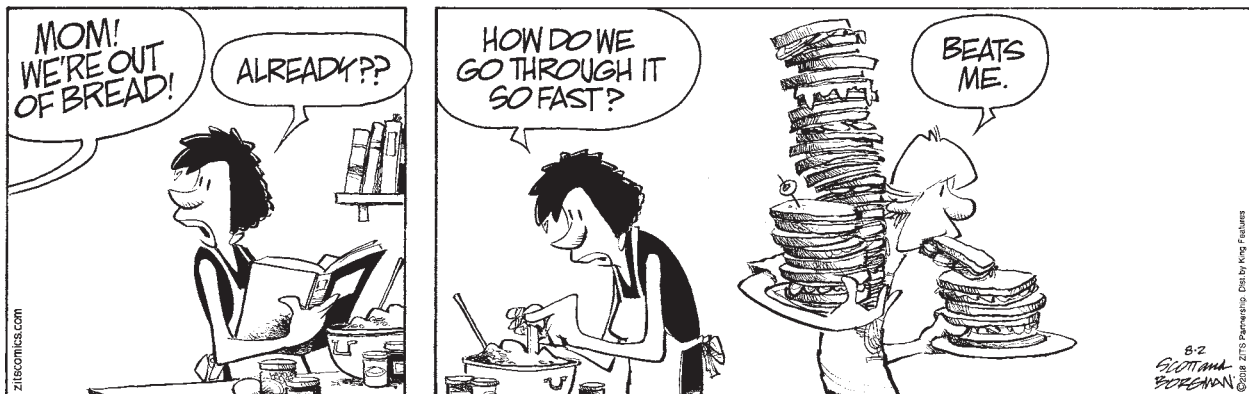
## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

4		2	9		5	1		6
		6				8		
	5			8			1	
			3	6	1			
	4			7			9	
		1				2		
5		9	2		6	3		4

Difficulty Level ★★★

8/02

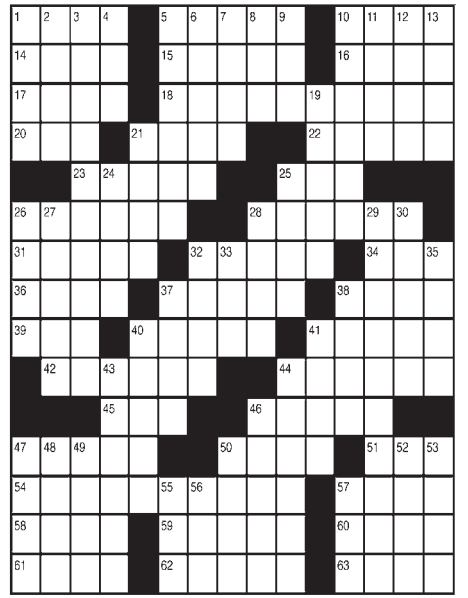
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

5	2	9	8	3	4	7	1	6
4	6	7	5	1	9	3	2	8
1	8	3	6	7	2	4	5	9
7	3	1	2	8	6	5	9	4
2	5	4	1	9	7	6	8	3
6	9	8	4	5	3	2	7	1
8	4	6	9	2	5	1	3	7
3	1	5	7	4	8	9	6	2
9	7	2	3	6	1	8	4	5

### ACROSS

- Linear measure
- Use Brillo
- Lasso
- Singer Natalie
- Ballroom dance
- Doesn't have both \_\_\_ in the water; is goofy
- Recognize
- High-ranking cleric
- "Are \_\_\_ Lonesome Tonight?"
- Floating sheet of ice
- Prepare for a test
- \_\_\_ in; inhabit
- Actress West
- Record companies
- Newspaper publisher William Randolph \_\_\_
- Grown-up
- Paris' currency before the euro
- Shade of brown
- Crane or cuckoo
- Actress Sally
- Cake recipe verb
- Distress signal
- Teeming crowd
- Fence openings
- Brook
- Stop doing something
- Feel sick
- Carved gem
- Up and about
- "A \_\_\_ home is his castle"
- Org. for Wizards and Warriors
- Modest
- Pull along
- Leafy cabbage
- Tea variety
- Up in \_\_\_; furious
- Ran fast
- Look of contempt
- Clerical error



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/2/18

### DOWN

- Unpleasant
- Forbidden item
- Sudden rainfall
- Chop down
- Drag one's feet
- Christmas song
- \_\_\_ more; again
- Word of disgust
- Steal from
- List of names
- Hawaiian island
- Nudge along
- Catch sight of
- Father of Jacob & Esau
- Stetson hat material
- Join metal by heating
- Repair
- Popular dogs, for short
- Tijuana farewell
- Vigorous
- Immobile
- \_\_\_ a fancy to; likes
- Unyielding
- Mr. Skelton
- Cozy home

### Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

HERB	ALPS	ODES
OCEAN	NEAT	VANE
WHINE	DILIGENCE	
LOT	RYE	CURSED
ELVES	KID	
SCREEN	SO LONG	
LOANS	SHOUT	ONA
ACTS	SAULT	STOP
TOE	MAINE	CHIME
ASCEND	SAUCES	
ARC	FORTE	
ESPRIT	INA	AFR
BOUNTIFUL	FABLE	
BARE	TEST	ELLEN
SPRY	YEAH	FEET

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8/2/18

- In a \_\_\_; instantly
- 49 Yarn
- 50 Boxer Tyson
- 52 \_\_\_ into; collide with
- 53 To boot
- 55 FedEx rival
- 56 Fellows
- 57 Bowler or fedora



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# Video of abuse at pig farm also highlights common practices

By COLLEEN SLEVIN

Associated Press

**DENVER (AP)** — Recently released undercover video showing pigs being kicked, hit and punched at a Kentucky supplier for the world's largest meat producer drew prompt condemnation from animal rights groups and the agricultural industry alike.

However, the images sandwiched in between — adult pigs in cages barely bigger than their bodies and a piglet squealing while being castrated — show still widely accepted industry practices, but were aimed at pressuring Brazilian-based JBS to abandon them. Ten states — none major pork producers — have passed laws that ban or phase out the use of those narrow metal cages, known as gestation crates or stalls, where sows are confined during their frequent pregnancies.

Among them is California, where voters agreed to phase out the crates along with chicken cages and veal crates starting in 2015. This fall, voters will be asked to go further and ban the sale of pork from pigs confined to the crates, along with pork from their offspring. The measure also would bar the sale of veal from crated calves and eggs from caged chickens. Massachusetts voters passed a similar ban in 2016 that takes effect in 2022.

Sows account for only about 6 percent of the pigs on American farms, but pork producers have been slow to give up confinement, said Josh Balk, vice president of farm animal protection for The Humane Society of the United States. While shoppers are familiar with the bewildering array of cage-free and free-



This frame grab from a video provided by Mercy for Animals shows a pig in an undercover video released by the group.

range egg options in stores, how pigs are raised is not something frequently touted on bacon or sausage packages.

Still, activists have made an impact with their gradual, state-by-state approach of passing ballot measures and bills to outlaw crates, and by gathering pledges from more than 100 large restaurant and food companies including McDonald's, Chipotle and Target, to move away from suppliers that use gestation crates. Some meat producers have also pledged to phase them out.

The world's largest pork producer, Smithfield Foods, announced in January it had switched to open group housing for pregnant pigs at its company-owned U.S. farms. JBS has said it plans to transition to collective rather than individual crates by 2025. In January, it said 45 percent of its suppliers have already made the switch.

JBS' U.S. branch, based in Greeley, suspended shipments from the Franklin, Kentucky, farm after the video was released earlier this month by Los Angeles-

based Mercy for Animals, a backer of the California proposal. It said it would investigate the incident at the farm operated by Tennessee-based Tosh Farms.

"Animal welfare is a priority for our company and our customers," JBS USA said in a statement at the time. "We will ensure that all of our suppliers adhere to our high standards for animal care." An estimated 75 percent of U.S. pig farms regularly use gestation stalls. The rest are owned by companies that pledged to cut stall use or are in states that ban it, and mostly use open pens instead, according to the National Pork Produc-

ers Council.

However, even most of those farms still use gestation stalls when sows are artificially inseminated, and some use them to test whether the sows are pregnant, council spokesman David Warner said. State bans, like Colorado's, typically include exceptions for testing, treatment or research.

After sows give birth, farms that use confinement usually put them in slightly larger farrowing stalls, which give them enough room to lie down and nurse their piglets.

Gestation stalls are intended to minimize fight-

ing among hierarchical sows and protect workers from the pregnant animals, which can weigh between 350 and 450 pounds (160 and 200 kilograms), said Sarah Crawford, assistant vice president of animal welfare for the National Pork Board in Des Moines, Iowa. She said the stalls are long enough for the animals to lie in, and research has shown some will choose a stall over living in a group.

"The good thing is farmers have the choice to decide what fits best for their farm," she said.

Temple Grandin, an animal science professor at Colorado State University and consultant on livestock treatment, said confined pregnant pigs lack the space to turn around, and compared the experience to humans having to spend their lives in an airline seat. Grandin, who has worked for JBS in the past, said crates should be phased out and has seen group housing for pigs working well. She also said the way male piglets are castrated done in their first week to prevent aggression and variations in meat flavor could change too because of new research into pain medication for livestock. □

## Scientists: 1st sighting of dolphin hybrid is no 'wholphin'

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLER

Associated Press

**HONOLULU (AP)** — Scientists are touting the first sighting of a hybrid between a melon-headed whale and a rough-toothed dolphin in the ocean off Hawaii. But don't call it a "wholphin," they say.

The melon-headed whale is one of the various species that's called a whale but is technically a dolphin.

"Calling it something like a wholphin doesn't make any sense," said one of the study's authors, Robin Baird, a Hawaii research biologist with Washington state-based Cascadia Research Collective. "I think calling

it a wholphin just confuses the situation more than it already is."

In a study published last week, scientists say the animal spotted off the island of Kauai in August 2017 appears to be the first record of a hybrid involving either species. It's also only the third confirmed instance of a wild-born hybrid between species in the Delphinidae family.

The label "wholphin" has stuck for a hybrid of a false killer whale and an Atlantic bottle-nose dolphin born in 1985 at Hawaii's Sea Life Park. The hybrid named Kekaimalu still lives at the marine mammal park, where she helps teach chil-

dren about genetics.

News of the hybrid spotted in the wild last year during Navy-funded research on the effects of sonar proves the "genetic diversity of the ocean," Sea Life Park curator Jeff Pawloski said.

"I always thought they were out there in the wild existing it only makes sense," he said. "And to know she has cousins out there in the ocean is an amazing thing to know." Some news organizations have described the melon-headed whale and rough-toothed dolphin hybrid as a new species, but other things would still need to occur, including more widespread hybridization, Baird said. □

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## Betty White's 80-year career celebrated in PBS special

By BETH HARRIS  
Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) —

Betty White sees no point in slowing down at age 96, as long as her phone keeps ringing with offers to work.

The actress known for her roles in "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and "The Golden Girls" is marking her 80th year in show business with a PBS special that looks at her life and career. Moore, Georgia Engel and Gavin MacLeod are among those sharing insights in "Betty White: First Lady of Television," which debuts Aug. 21.

The special shows White at work, at home and interacting with friends. She is the lone living star from "The Golden Girls."

White didn't join Engel and MacLeod at a TV critics meeting on Tuesday.

"Betty wanted to be here in the worst way," said Steve Boettcher, the special's co-director and producer. "She sends her best and she's doing great."

Tap dancer Arthur Duncan credits White with launch-

ing his career by featuring him on her own daily talk show in the mid-1950s. The show received letters complaining about Duncan's presence as a black performer.

White also served as producer and her response to the protests was to use Duncan every chance she could. He later went on to "The Lawrence Welk Show," becoming the first black regular on a TV variety show.

"She was probably one of the nicest, grandest, greatest people I've had the chance to meet in my life," said Duncan, now 84. "Whenever she walked into a room, it lit up."

The bald MacLeod, who is 87, recalled the interplay between his character Murray and White's portrayal of man-hungry Sue Ann Nivens on Moore's show.

"If I had hair, I don't think it would have worked," he said, laughing about the comedic opportunities his physical appearance afforded White. □



Dancer Arthur Duncan and actress Georgia Engel take part in a panel discussion on the PBS special "Betty White: First Lady of Television" during the 2018 Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour in Beverly Hills.

Associated Press

## Snider doesn't need yesterday because today is his

By WAYNE PARRY  
Associated Press

Dee Snider "For the Love of Metal" (Napalm)

Dee Snider, the Long Island mouth that roared on all-time rock classics including "We're Not Gonna Take It" and "I Wanna Rock," already did the solo thing in the early '90s while Twisted Sister was on hiatus.

But apparently there was something deeper, darker and heavier brewing within Snider that even he might not have known was there. (And this from a man who wrote a horror movie about a killer who sews victims' mouths shut.)

That darkness shines on "For the Love of Metal," a project that came about when Hatebreed's Jamey Jasta dared Snider to make a modern metal album. The result is heavy



This cover image released by Napalm Records shows "For the Love of Metal," the latest release by Dee Snider.

Associated Press

on growls, guttural snarls and bowel-rattling bass and guitar riffs. It's difficult to imagine that a guy old enough to collect Social Security can melt your face deep into his fifth decade in the heavy metal biz. But he does. And Snider garnishes these tracks with just enough attitude to appeal to his '80s fans. □

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# Amid cancer treatment, Irrfan Khan finds new a perspective

By LINDSEY BAHR

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Actor Irrfan Khan is a Bollywood star and Hollywood chameleon, who has bounced between the two with ease for decades, working with everyone from Mira Nair to Wes Anderson and Ang Lee and stealing scenes in both Oscar-winners ("Slumdog Millionaire") and blockbusters ("Jurassic World") alike. But all that's been put on hold as he undergoes treatment in London for a neuroendocrine tumor, a rare form of cancer. Although Khan's life now is very different from only a few months ago, he still has films that he worked on as recently last year coming out, including "Puzzle," a poignant character drama expanding to 11 cities this weekend.

The indie film from Oscar-nominated producer Marc Turtletaub ("Little Miss Sunshine") is about a stifled suburban housewife, played by Kelly Macdonald, who forms a bond with a more cosmopolitan man, (Khan), over a shared fondness for puzzles. It's one that Khan's



In this Jan. 22, 2018 file photo, actor Irrfan Khan poses for a portrait to promote the film "Puzzle" during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

Associated Press

immensely proud of, and eager to talk about, but, he also knows very keenly how unpredictable his life has become. When I call him for our interview, he answers politely and informs me that he's

been hospitalized the night prior and asks if might be possible to call him back in 10 minutes. Of course, I say. This happens again, when Khan's doctors come in to talk to him and he politely asks if we might pick it up tomorrow.

Below are excerpts from our conversations. They have been edited for clarity and brevity.

**AP:** 'Puzzle' is quite lovely, but also a small character drama — a bit of a departure from the bigger Hollywood films you've become known for

**KHAN:** I was looking for something for a long time in American cinema, Hollywood cinema. I have been reaching for this, for a personal experience where I could invest myself and I could have more meat that I could get apart from myself completely and get into something which is unknown. This character had complexity and a strange unpredictability where he himself doesn't know where things are moving and is in a limbo state. There are so many interesting angles to this person. I was looking for something more personal and to redefine my involvement in a story, where my soul could entangle with this story. You want residue,

you want it to last. So it had all that. And the simplicity of writing was fantastic. It was a complex situation, but I love that the way it comes out of the characters' mouths is very simple. So I fell in love it with it and I shifted my schedule in India and said, "I'm going to do it." It worked out and I really loved it.

**AP:** How are you doing in general?

**KHAN:** I've seen life from a completely different angle. You sit down and you see the other side and that's fascinating. I'm engaged on a journey.

**AP:** There's been a lot of speculation in the media about your condition and you've made pleas on social media not to trust the reports. But what do you want people to know about what you're going through?

**KHAN:** There are challenges which life throws at you. But I have started believing in the way this condition has tested me, really, really tested me in all aspects — physical, emotional and spiritual. It has put me in a rapture state. Initially I was shaken. I didn't know. I was very, very vulnerable. But slowly, there is another way to look at things that is much more powerful and

much more productive and much more healthy and I just want people to believe that nature is much more trustworthy and one must trust that. The problem with me initially was everyone was speculating whether I would be out of this disease or not. Because it's not in my hand. That's nature that will do whatever it has to do. What is in my hand, I could take care of that. And it offers so much that you feel thankful. The way it is opening your windows to look at life. I would have never reached that state even if I had done meditation for 30 years, I wouldn't have reached it. But this sudden jolt has put me into a platform where I could look at things in a completely different manner. And for that I am really thankful. It sounds strange, but they should trust nature rather than feel sad, and trust that whatever the outcome, it will be for good and it will be for the best.

**AP:** What is your day to day like now? Are you reading scripts or planning to work at all?

**KHAN:** No, I'm completely out of reading scripts. This has become a surreal experience. My days are unpredictable. I used to think my life would be like that, but I could never practice unpredictability and spontaneity. That has happened now. I don't plan. I go for breakfast and then I don't have a plan. I take things as they come. That has been really helping me a lot. I don't make plans. I'm just spontaneous. And I'm loving this experience. There was something missing in my life. I was feeling a little manipulated by myself, by my own mind. There was a kind of disharmony in myself. It was bothering me. And I think this is what I was missing, this spontaneity. I know because we live in a world that is packed with plans, it sounds unrealistic. How could you live your life like that? But life is so mysterious and has so much to offer, we don't really try things. And I'm trying and I'm loving it. I'm in a really fortunate state. □

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SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35

**SPY WHO DUMPED ME**  
MILA KUNIS | KATE MCKINNON  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [R]  
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FRI 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20 | 11:50  
SAT 1:55 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20 | 11:50  
SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20

**Christopher Robin**  
EWAN MCGREGOR | HAYLEY ATWELL  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG]  
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FRI 4:25 | 6:45 | 9:05 | 11:25  
SAT 2:05 | 4:25 | 6:45 | 9:05 | 11:25  
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NICOLAS CAGE | KRISTEN BELL  
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MONTHU 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:25  
FRI 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:25 | 11:40  
SAT 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:25 | 11:40  
SUN & HOL 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:25

**MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN**  
AMANDA SEYFRIED | LILY JAMES  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]  
MONTHU & SUN 9:00  
FRI-SAT 9:00 | 11:30

**HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 4**  
ADAM SANDLER | SELENA GOMEZ  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG]  
MON-FRI 4:40 | 6:50  
SAT & SUN 2:30 | 4:40 | 6:50

**EQUALIZER 3**  
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## My Life as a Spy under surveillance in communist Romania

By ALISON MUTLER

Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)

— Romanian secret police agents eavesdropped on her, persuaded friends to snoop on her and filmed her when she was in her underwear.

Some 70 informants and spies kept tabs on Katherine Verdery, now an anthropology professor at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, when she visited communist Romania in the '70s and '80s as a postgraduate doing research on an anthropology thesis on Romanian village life.

No other U.S. citizen was so closely scrutinized by the Securitate secret police of communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu.

After the collapse of communism in 1989, Verdery obtained her 2,781-page dossier and transformed the material into a 344-page book, "My Life as a Spy."

The book was recently translated into Romanian, opening old wounds, but also challenging Romanians to confront a dark chapter in their history.

### AN AMERICAN SPY?

A young and naive American academic by her own admission, Verdery didn't comprehend what her questions and attempts to fit in looked like in Eastern Europe.



This undated photo provided by Juan Carlos Arévalo shows Katherine Verdery, an American anthropologist and professor. Associated Press

In the Cold War, Romania considered U.S. students sent to Romania on grants to be Western agents, and Verdery did nothing to dispel this assumption when she inadvertently drove her motorcycle onto a military base in the 1970s, although the officer in charge of spying on her at that period finally concluded she wasn't involved in espionage activities.

Discovering later that she was erroneously considered a U.S. spy, potentially with Hungarian sympathies,

Verdery was initially "appalled, I was absolutely stunned. ... I couldn't believe my eyes, the level of surveillance was so much greater than anything I had anticipated or imagined." Romanian Securitate agents reported on her movements, sometimes 16 hours a day. Hotel receptionists reported her whereabouts, others broke into her suitcase to access her notes, surreptitiously filmed and bugged the places where she went and asked — or twisted the arm — of

friends and acquaintances to report on her.

They feared she would paint Romania in an unfavorable light or could negatively impact Romania's most favored nation status with her reports.

Officers gave Verdery a variety of code names: "Vera," "Vanesa" and "Folklorista."

### TRYING TO RECONCILE AND UNDERSTAND

Furious and depressed, Verdery set about trying to understand and record on paper why she had been a target, unwittingly inhabiting a cloak-and-dagger world of betrayals and invisible surveillance.

"The default assumption was that I was a spy," she told The Associated Press by telephone from Massachusetts. "Finding out my friends were involved working with the secret police ... was an unwelcome surprise."

In her mission to make sense of what had happened to her and gain an anthropological perspective, Verdery embarked on the laborious and fraught task of returning to Romania where she sought out, met, discussed and eventually forgave former close friends and colleagues.

Some flatly denied keeping tabs on her. Others had died. One woman turned the tables, chiding Verdery for making her become an informer. Only one person

apologized.

"The concept of spying is a cultural concept," Verdery believes, saying she began to realize why people could have thought of her as a spy: she kept duplicate sets of notes that she locked in a suitcase and then sent back to the United States in a diplomatic pouch.

Verdery doesn't name her informers, but pages from her file that have appeared in Romanian media reveal two former ministers among her informants.

### THE GHOST OF THE SECURITATE

Unlike other former communist countries, Romania hasn't reconciled the shadowy and corrosive effect the Securitate had on society when informers kept tabs on citizens and stifled dissent with informers infiltrated into every walk of life.

Observers say the old Securitate network continues to function. "The Securitate is in business, active in politics and in the press; it's as alive as it was before, and we haven't healed yet," said Armand Gosu, a political science teacher at the University of Bucharest.

But the publication of "My Life as a Spy" in Romanian last month appears to be having a cathartic affect, although some have criticized her for not being "sufficiently judgmental." □

## Art of illusion: Face paint transforms Serbian makeup pro

By DARKO VOJINOVIC

Associated Press

SMEDEREVO, Serbia (AP)

— It took Mirjana Milosevic less than an hour to transform into a zombie. The Serbian makeup artist also can turn into a skeleton or a genie and make body parts disappear.

Milosevic, 36, has attracted fans around the world for the illusions she creates on and with her own body. She records the whole process and posts videos on YouTube and social networks under the profession-

al name Kika.

Milosevic creates her videos, which have gotten millions of views, in a studio in her home in the central Serbian town of Smederevo. There, in front of a dressing table and surrounded by mirrors, she picks the tools that will immerse her in a new role.

With makeup pencils, brushes and face paints, Milosevic slowly creates an image that completely changes her appearance. Flawless black lines appear as contours, then symbols

resembling neck tattoos. An outline colored in with white becomes a mask that reveals hollowed-out and sharp teeth.

A zombie is born. Her signature skin illusions take longer, Milosevic says. She puts in days of contemplation and planning, followed by hours and hours of work, to put a hollow in her stomach or to appear without a head.

The artist says she always liked to draw, but never on paper.

As a young girl, Milosevic



In this Friday, July 27, 2018 photo, Serbian make-up artist Mirjana Milosevic known professionally as 'Kika' paints her face at her studio in Smederevo, Serbia.

Associated Press

drew on walls, tables and her legs and arms.

"My parents say I learned to

draw before I could walk," Milosevic said. □



# A makeover for milkweed, for the sake of butterflies

By **CALVIN WOODWARD**  
Associated Press

**QUEBEC CITY (AP)** — For generations, North American farmers have despised milkweed and done their best to rid their lands of it. "I hate to have milkweed in my strawberry field," Nathalie Leonard says from her farm by the Quebec village of Lac-du-Cerf. So why does she have 60 acres of milkweed growing on purpose? It's for the sake of butterflies — the iconic monarchs. And for a chance to turn milkweed into profit.

"Every weed," she says, "is only a weed because it's in the wrong place." Leonard and her partners in Monark, a co-operative of farmers through Quebec and into Vermont, hope milkweed now has found its rightful place in their fields.

Intrigued by the notion of helping to restore the sinking population of monarch butterflies — and persuaded by the stirrings of a new market — these farmers began clearing land or ripping out cash crops and turning precious acres over to a plant they'd previously seen as a nuisance.

The milkweed makeover began when researchers in Quebec transformed the plant's silky fibers into a high-end insulation material for winter clothing and advanced other commercial uses for it, like sound insulation and absorption for oil spills. Winter coats stuffed with milkweed fiber reached outdoor retailers in 2016, fetching \$800



In this July 22, 2012, file photo, a Monarch butterfly eats nectar from a swamp milkweed on the shore of Rock Lake in Pequot Lakes, Minn.

or more apiece. The Canadian Coast Guard tried milkweed garb and liked it. And as a side benefit, the distinctive honey from milkweed fields is prized.

Yet the company formed to process and market the fiber collapsed last year, forcing the farmers who grow it to step in and try to make a go of the whole milkweed initiative. They're on track for perhaps their best harvest in the five or so years since the milkweed experiment began, but where the fiber will go after the fall is uncertain.

The orange and black monarchs are wholly dependent on milkweed. The plant is the only host for their eggs and sole sustenance for the caterpillars, which

feed on milky secretions from the leaves. Milkweed has been in rapid retreat, crowded by urban development, attacked along roadways, and driven from pastoral landscapes by herbicides that spare resistant corn and soybeans.

A ritual of autumn — cracking the dry pods to watch the seed-bearing white fluff escape and catch the winds — has faded.

But in recent years, as the plight of the monarchs became more pronounced, communities, schools and gardeners began planting patches of milkweed along roads and public buildings and in backyards to give the butterfly a fighting chance. A 2017 study at the University of Guelph in Ontario found there's nothing more effective in this effort than the all-you-can-eat buffet of a farmer's field of milkweed — visible from the sky, rooted in rich soil, and isolated from traffic and pollution.

When University of Vermont agronomist Heather Darby first heard of Quebec's initiative, from a man who called looking for Vermont farmers to join, she was thrown. Milkweed is toxic to livestock — one study says it gives cows "profound depression" on the rare chance they eat it. It's been a mark of shame on

farmlands, a sign of sloppy maintenance.

"Oh gosh, here's another one of those people with some crazy idea and he wants farmers to grow milkweed!" she remembered thinking. "But I listened."

After learning that hundreds of Quebec acres were already under milkweed production, she reached out to farmers in Vermont whom she considered innovators — people who would "want to listen, wouldn't laugh too hard, might try it out." Now, more than 100 farmers in Quebec and about a half dozen in Vermont are producing milkweed for Monark, of which Nathalie Leonard serves as president.

## THE PLANT

The ecological and economic promise of milkweed prompted Roger Rainville to convert 50 prime acres of his farm lining the Canadian border to milkweed several years ago.

"This was a whole field, from here to the woods, of just beautiful alfalfa," he said, gesturing over the dense green crop of purple-flowered milkweed, 3 miles (5 km) north of Alburgh, Vermont, as he awaited the monarchs on their northern summer migration.

"You get along roadsides and there's not much fertility there. I tell farmers, if you're going to grow this, if you try something new, do it on your best soil," he said. Farmers from across the U.S. call him to ask how to get going with milkweed.

At Rainville's farm, Darby waded into waist-high milkweed, bending to sniff tightly knit flowers that she likened to lilacs. The ugly-duckling weed was looking handsome and smelling fine.

"What better opportunity to preserve an insect that's just so dearly loved by so many people, so globally known," Darby said, "but also seeing it come together with agriculture in such a beneficial way."

It takes two or three years after planting for milkweed to flower and produce the pods bursting with fluff. Once established, they can be irrepressible. On her Lac-du-Cerf farm, Leonard will have her first harvest this autumn, her second year after planting. □



This June 22, 2018 photo shows Milkweed is in full flower on Roger Rainville's farm along the Canadian border in Alburgh, Vt.

Associated Press



This June 22, 2018 photo shows University of Vermont agricultural researcher Heather Darby and Vermont farmer Roger Rainville waist-deep in a field of milkweed, in Alburgh, Vt.

Associated Press